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"INSTEAD OF THY FATHERS SHALL BE THY CHILDREN, WHOM THOU MAYEST MAKE PRINCES IN ALL THE EARTH."

WEST HARTFORD

by

WILLIAM H. HALL

1930

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Dedication

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This book is affectionately dedicated to the boys and girls of West Hartford with whom it has been my great privilege and joy to be associated in the public schools of the town through a period of many years. Many of them are men and women now. Some are parents and even grandparents of children now in the schools; some have gone forth to make homes and render service in other communities far and near. I include all in most grateful remembrance and most hearty appreciation of their genuine friendships which have enriched my life, and of their joyous greetings which have cheered my heart. The remembrance of them and of their friendship has been to me a constant source of encouragement and cheer in the preparation of this book.

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William H. Hall

INTRODUCTION

Why this book?

The reasons for its existence are many, but chiefly the following: When I was a student in Monson Academy, in the class which was graduated in 1869, the principal of the Academy, Rev. Charles Hammond, was accustomed to say to his scholars, "Interest yourselves in the history of the town in which your home is located. Whether it be large or small, you will find much of interest in its history".

Inspired by this suggestion, I soon began to make inquiry concerning the history of West Hartford, of which at that time I knew little or nothing. Valuable information was received from some of the older residents: Miss Eliza Butler and her niece Mrs. E. G. Sisson, Miss Charlotte Colton, Thomas Brace, Benjamin Bishop, Morgan Goodwin, Edwin Belden, and others. From their memory of what had occurred during their lifetime, and from what had been told them by their predecessors, they had some knowledge of the history of the town almost from its beginning. I also received valuable information from Miss Mary K. Talcott of Hartford, John B. Talcott of New Britain, Rev. W. W. Belden of Thomaston, Col. William E. Cone of Hartford, and H. M. Seymour of Payson, Illinois. From time to time interesting facts came to me from other sources. But during all these years I did not contemplate the preparation of a history.

One day in the summer of 1922 I visited David N. Gaines at his home in East Hartland, Conn. Mr. Gaines has been for many years the efficient town clerk of Hartland and is deeply interested in local history. In the course of our conversation he asked if we taught West Hartford history in our public schools. I told him that we had not done so. He expressed regret, stating that he thought the boys and girls in every New England community should be taught the history of their own town. I felt reproved, and realized that I had been selfish in retaining the knowledge which had interested me, without thought of imparting it to others, and especially to the boys and girls in our public schools, of which I had been superintendent for twenty-five years. So, when the time came for the opening of the public schools in the autumn of 1922, and I had assured my successor, Superintendent Lloyd H. Bugbee, of my wish to be of service to him and to the schools, if desired, it was arranged that I should teach West Hartford history in weekly lessons to scholars in all the fifth grades of the public schools.

At that time Mr. Bugbee expressed a desire that I should write a history of West Hartford. After I had been teaching the classes for a few months, the School Board expressed interest in the matter and voted to grant me leave of absence for a season in order that I might have opportunity to write a history of the town. At a later date the directors of the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce became interested in the matter and voted to be responsible financially for whatever expense might be necessary to incur in the preparation and publication of the book. So, with these encouragements, I began. As the writing of the book has progressed, I have been greatly encouraged by many and varied manifestations of interest on the part of those who have spoken of their desire to possess and read such a book, and by those who have rendered valuable assistance in securing material from various sources, or have made personal contributions of material.

The service which has been rendered in the final preparation of the book for the press by Mr. Alfred M. Hitchcock who kindly consented to edit the book, is most gratefully appreciated, as a valuable contribution.

Very grateful acknowledgement is also made of the hearty cooperation from the beginning, of Superintendent Lloyd H. Bugbee, and especially of the very valuable service rendered by him in arranging in an admirable way the details in connection with the publication of the book.

What of the book?

It is not, strictly speaking, a history of West Hartford. It is, however, composed of historical matter relative to the beginning, the development, and the accomplishments of the community. The principal events and factors of that development are presented somewhat in story form, under appropriate titles or headings. I sincerely hope that it will prove to be an interesting story to all those residents and friends of the town who read it, and that it will serve to promote a spirit of keener appreciation of the community and a deeper devotion of its highest interests.

I should like to have this work considered a grateful tribute of my appreciation of my good fortune in that I had my birth in this town and have lived here so many years in the enjoyment of its privileges of citizenship and of associations with citizens and friends, especially with the children and youths in the public schools.

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WILLIAM H. HALL

BEGINNINGS

The history of West Hartford really began in 1636.

In the company of one hundred people who came in that year through the wilderness from Massachusetts, under the leadership of Rev. Thomas Hooker and Rev. Samuel Stone, to form a new settlement, were some who soon after became residents of the West Division (now West Hartford) and others whose descendants later became citizens here. The territory purchased of the Indians embraced the larger part of what is now West Hartford. The spirit of true patriotic citizenship which characterized Rev. Thomas Hooker and his followers has been manifested by our people through all the years of our history.

Arriving at the bank of the Connecticut River about the middle of June, after an experience of two weeks on their journey, these people were greatly pleased with what they beheld. "Stretching from the bank of the river were the extensive fertile meadows sloping westward to the uplands, locked in on most sides by the tall green trees of the primeval forest. Trees, plants, and shrubs were in foliage. The earth had on its carpet of green. Birds were singing everywhere amid verdant branches. Even now, one standing on the rocky ridge in front of Trinity College and looking westward is inspired by the beauty and grandeur of the landscape extending to the range of hills which we call Talcott Mountain.

The Indians having possession of the land were known as Sequins. That branch located in the section where Hartford is now were called Suckiaug Indians, taking that name from suckiauke, meaning "black earth," such as was found in the meadows on the banks of the river. The sachem of that tribe was Sequasson, sometimes spelled Sunckquasson. From him the settlers purchased a tract of land extending along the river bank from a settlement on the south called Wethersfield to a settlement on the north called Windsor, and extending westward a full six miles.

For a number of years the people of this new settlement were busy establishing their homes in the eastern part of the territory which they had purchased. In 1672, however, they turned their attention to the western part of the territory and voted to lay it out in sections or farms. The greater part of the land was to be laid out in sections extending a mile and a half eastward from the western boundary, but in the southern part the sections were to be laid out in tiers north to south. All the land from the eastern boundary of these sections to the Hartford settlement was to be set aside and kept *forever* as a "common" for the use of all the people.

The committee appointed to lay out the sections consisted of Lieutenant Robert Webster, Mr. Nichols, Ensign Olmstead, Nathaniel Standley, Mr. Steel, and Nathaniel Ruscoe. They laid out seventy-two sections or lots extending eastward from the western boundary. These ranged in width from three to ninety-one rods. The largest contained two hundred seventy-three acres. In the southern part of the territory, where the tiers were laid out from north to south, the first tier or division contained nine lots each of about ten acres of land; in the second tier there were six lots of seventeen acres each. The third tier contained seven lots of one hundred acres each, the fourth tier six lots of one hundred acres each, and the fifth tier four lots of one hundred acres each. These five tiers of lots were all south of the highway which we now know as New Britain Avenue.

In 1677 the committee who had laid out the "long lots" were authorized to show the proprietors to whom these had been assigned where their lots were, and for this service they were to receive pay. One of the largest sections was in the northern part of the West Division, generally known as the Haynes lot. It embraced the large farm owned in later years by Samuel Whiting. Another large section was at the Center, forty rods wide, the John Pantry lot, located where the town buildings are now. When Farmington Avenue was opened in 1800, it ran diagonally through this section in its western part. The eastern portion of the Pantry lot was inherited in later years by the Whitmans and the western portion by the Goodmans. The dividing line was the road now known as West Hartford Main Street.

The first settlement in the West Division was made in 1679 by Stephen Hosmer. His father, Thomas Hosmer, purchased land about half a mile north of what is now West Hartford Center, and built for his son a house and a saw-mill on the west side of the road and the north bank of the stream which in recent years has been called Trout Brook. Mrs. Amelia Goodman Emmons, whose childhood home was in the Goodman homestead still standing on the south side of the brook, told me that in her girlhood a portion of the old saw-mill was still standing on the high bank quite a distance back from the street. Her father, Captain Childs Goodman, for many years had a grist-mill in the same locality but nearer the street. Mr. J. C. Willian, who built his house in that locality a few years ago, has one of the millstones of the old grist-mill in use as a front doorstep. In my boyhood an old unpainted weather-beaten house stood where Mrs. David I. Green's house is now located. This possibly may have been the house built for Stephen Hosmer in 1679.

John Merrill was interested with Thomas Hosmer in the purchase of land north of the saw-mill site, and in the course of a few years the Merrill family owned a large part of the land as far north as our present Flagg Road. The house on Flagg Road

formerly owned by Willis M. Flagg, now the property of A. Raymond Ellis, was originally a Merrill home.

In the years succeeding the coming of Mr. Hosmer, other settlers came from time to time: Lamrock Flowers in 1686, Joseph Gillett in 1694, Samuel Sedgwick in 1695, Isaac Hinsdale in 1697, etc. Lamrock Flowers apparently located just north of the spot where the first church was built. Samuel Sedgwick purchased two or three of the sections south of the South Middle road, embracing over 360 acres of land.

Finally in 1710 the population had increased to such an extent that the people began to desire a community organization of their own, and especially local gospel privileges. Therefore they sent a petition (October 12, 1710) to the General Assembly of Connecticut, then in session in New Haven, as follows:

October 12, 1710

To the Honored General Assembly now sitting in New Haven.

The petition of the inhabitants of that part of the town of Hartford, commonly called by the name of the West Division, showeth: — That your petitioners, being by the providence of God settled something remote from the town of Hartford, do desire the liberty to call or settle, as we may see meet, a minister amongst us to carry on the public worship of God, for which we offer these reasons to your Honors' consideration:

1. The distance from the places is such that a good part of God's time is spent traveling backwards and forwards, which if otherwise we might spend in his service to our comfort.

2. The difficulties of the way that many times must be encountered with, as bad traveling underfoot, uncomfortableness overhead, and a river not seldom difficult, sometimes impassable; which things render the way not only difficult, but sometimes impracticable.

3. That our small children may be present at the public worship of God, and not be brought up in darkness in such a land of light as this is, but may be instructed in the doctrine of the gospel.

4. Is the difficulties of leaving them, unguarded at home, especially in dangerous times, whereby we do not only expose them to their own fears, but to our enemies' rage, or in hazard thereof.

These things, with the reasons offered, we desire may not only be taken in serious consultation, but also that we may have a present affirmative result and approbation; and your humble petitioners shall ever pray. Which is the humble request of your humble petitioners.

(Signed) Thomas Olmsted, David Ensign, Sen., John Watson, Sen., Nath. Arnold, Joseph Butler, Lamrock Flower, Simon Smith, John Merrill, Joseph Gillet, Abraham Merrill, John Webster, Jonathan Bull, Abel Merrill, Thomas Steel, Samuel Sedgwick, Samuel Kellogg, Thomas Morgan, David Ensign, Jun., Cornelius Merry, James Williams, Samuel Shepherd, Thomas Shepherd, William Gaylord, John Scott, Paul Peck, John Peck, Esther Bull, John Watson, Jun.

This petition was referred to a committee for investigation, as appears from the following vote:

Voted in the Lower House, That Lieut. Col. Matthew Allyn, John Moore, Esq., and Mr. Return Strong of Windsor, or any two of them, are a Committee appointed by this Court, to inspect the reasonableness of this petition, and make their report to this Assembly in May next, to be done at the expense of the inhabitants of the West Division; the said Committee to treat with the town of Hartford and the West Division, endeavoring to bring them to a compliance.

Test. Roger Wolcott, Clerk.

Passed in the Upper House.

Test. C. Stanley, Sec'y.

When the people of Hartford became aware of this action on the part of the West Division residents, a town meeting was called and a remonstrance was sent to the General Assembly in opposition to the petition.

The committee appointed by the General Assembly to make investigations as to the reasonableness of the petition presented a report to the General Assembly on May 10, 1711, as follows:

To the Honorable General Court, sitting at Hartford, May 10, 1711.

Whereas the subscribers were by order of the Hon. Gen'l Court holden at New Haven, October 12, 1710, ordered and appointed to treat with the inhabitants of Hartford upon the

matters of the petition, and endeavor to bring them to a willingness and consent thereunto, and also to consider the reasonableness of the petition of the inhabitants of the West Division of Hartford, and the ability of the petitioners to maintain a minister: In pursuance of the order of the Hon. Court, and also upon the desire of the inhabitants in general of said Division, did on the 30th of November last past, go upon the place, and by the best information we could get, the inhabitants there upon the spot were 27 [families], the number of souls 164, besides seven houses newly built, and the families belonging to them come, or are likely to come shortly. The furlong of lots, as we are informed, will contain about 90 families, with about 60 acres to each family. We further inform this Honorable Court that on the 19th of December last past we went to Hartford, and showed our commission, and labored with them to come to a compliance with their neighbors, by the best arguments we could use; all that we could obtain was such an answer as was granted to the inhabitants on the east side of the Great river, as may be seen by the record. As to the reasonableness of their petition, we cannot but apprehend, (with submission to your Honors) that the people are in a way of duty, to look after liberty of enjoyment of the ordinances amongst them, considering the distance they live, and the ability they are at present in, and likely to be a considerable more.

Matth. Allyn,
John Moore.

The outcome of this matter is shown in the following "Act of the General Assembly of Connecticut incorporating the West Division Parish":

The General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut, holden at Hartford the 10th day of May, 1711, upon consideration of the petition of the West Division farmers in the town of Hartford presented to this Assembly in October last and referred to this time, and of the report of the committee then appointed to consider their case which was now laid before this Assembly, and also of the objections made against the said petition by the said town of Hartford, this Assembly do now grant to the said farmers the liberty and privilege of being one entire parish and society by and of themselves within the said town of Hartford, for the settling, upholding and maintaining of the public worship of God amongst them with all such liberties, powers and privileges as

other societies and congregations in this colony generally have and do enjoy by law; and that the bounds of said parish or society shall be the town of Windsor on the north, the town of Farmington on the west, the town of Wethersfield on the south and the east end of the said West Division lots on the east, provided always that no person that is owner of any land within said bounds and doth not dwell there shall or may be taxed or rated for his said land for or towards defraying the charge of the said Society.

Thus began the corporate organic existence of the community known at first as the West Division Parish and in these later years as West Hartford. Its subsequent development and worthy history justify the assertion that the act of the General Assembly in 1711 was wise and beneficent.

In 1712 the people erected their first "meeting-house." It was a very plain, moderate-sized structure, with a steep roof and without steeple or tower, in accord with the general character of the church buildings in New England communities at that time. No representation or description of it has been preserved. Doubtless it was built to a large extent by voluntary contributions from the people of material and labor, and as they were able to make them from time to time, consistent with their home duties and labors; and so several months must have passed before it was ready for occupancy. It was located on the section originally known as the Pantry Lot in the central part of the West Division, and on the west side of the road which extended through the division from north to south, now known as West Hartford Main Street. In the action taken in respect to the laying out of that road it was stated that a wider space should be allowed at that point. This first church building stood just east of the present location of our Town Office Building.

On the twenty-fourth day of February, 1713, a church was organized with twenty-nine members as follows:

David Ensign, Sr.
Thomas Olmstead, Sr.
Samuel Kellogg
Mrs. Samuel Kellogg
Samuel Sedgwick
Mrs. Samuel Sedgwick
Thomas Cadwell
Mrs. Thomas Cadwell
Thomas Shepherd
William Gaylord
Mrs. William Gaylord
Mrs. Abraham Merrill
John Peck
William Parsons
Mrs. William Parsons
John Adams
Mrs. John Adams
John Watson, Jr.
David Ensign, Jr.
Mrs. David Ensign, Jr.
John Webster
Jacob Merrill

Joseph Gillet
Nathaniel Arnold
Mrs. Nathaniel Arnold
Mrs. Jacob Merrill
Mrs. Consider Hopkins
Widow Bull
Abraham Merrill

This was called the Fourth Church of Christ in Hartford. It is now known as the First Church of Christ in West Hartford.

The boundary lines of the West Division Parish as it was in the beginning were not in all respects those of the West Hartford of today. As early as 1732 some of the residents of Farmington who lived in the northeastern part of that town and west of Mountain Road petitioned the General Assembly asking to be set off to Hartford. They gave as reasons for making this request that the distance from their homes to Farmington Center was too great and the way over the mountain was difficult, and that they found it more convenient to attend church in the West Division.

Their petition was not granted, and again in 1798 another petition of the same nature met with a similar fate. They were persistent however in their desire and efforts, and in 1830 the General Assembly acted favorably in response to a similar petition. An act was passed setting off from Farmington to Hartford all the territory now embraced within the limits of West Hartford west of Mountain Road, as far south as the middle of Mountain Spring Road, to the foot of Selden Hill, thence southerly on the west line of Darius Woodruff's farm at the foot of Selden Hill.

This accession of territory for some reason did not include the section known as Selden Hill, but twenty years later, 1859, after West Hartford had become a separate town, this section was included in response to a petition signed by Hezekiah Selden and others, in which the statement was made that the families residing there were closely affiliated with the people of West Hartford in social relations, church privileges, and public school accommodations. The General Assembly passed an act setting off from Farmington to West Hartford a tract of about three hundred thirty acres of land with several residences, and the people residing there, establishing the western line or boundary to extend southward from a point on the western side of the present Reservoir Number One, or where the boundary line west of Selden Hill is now.

The eastern boundary of the sections of the West Division as they were laid out in 1674 was the Common. When the Common was later divided into sections or lots, some of those lots became a part of the West Division and others were a part of Hartford. So a new boundary line had to be established between Hartford and the West Division. The description of that boundary as it appears in the old records is as follows:

"Beginning at a stake and stones in the dividing line of the towns of Hartford and Windsor, thence running a course due south 180 chains, to the south side of the Talcott Mountain Turnpike road, at its intersection with said line, thence running on the same course 54 chains 68 links to a point on the west side of a highway, a few rods north of the dwelling house of Levi Arnold, thence south 20 degrees, west 37 chains, 40 links, to a maple staddle on the north side of the road called Middle Public Road; and on the west side of said dividing line the whole distance from the Talcott Mountain Turnpike to the last mentioned course to the dividing line between the towns of Hartford and Wethersfield."

The stake and stones have been replaced by a more substantial monument. The dwelling house of Levi Arnold, which was probably near the northern boundary of Elizabeth Park at Asylum Avenue, is no more, and the maple staddle has disappeared; but the "ancient highway" still exists as Prospect Avenue, and the boundary line thus established many years ago is practically the line now between Hartford and West Hartford.

SEPARATION FROM HARTFORD

The spirit of independence which characterized the early inhabitants of the West Division in seeking for a separate corporate existence in 1710 evidently was not fully satisfied when they were granted the right to have an ecclesiastical society.

As the population increased and the public interests of the community became of greater importance, the desire for a more complete separation was manifested. As early as 1792 the people of the West Division were anxious to be a town separate from connection with Hartford. At that time they appointed Noah Webster, Caleb Perkins, and John Whitman to act as a committee to make application to Hartford for permission to be set off as a separate town. They evidently desired, if possible, to secure the approval of the people of Hartford before proceeding to action by the General Assembly of the State.

Their effort was futile, and in 1797 it was unanimously voted by the people of the West Division "to be separated from the city of Hartford and the Town Plot, provided it can be obtained from the General Assembly, together with a certain tier of lots of land with the inhabitants thereon living in the bounds of Farmington belonging to the Society of the West Division for Society purposes." Evidently the inhabitants "living in the bounds of Farmington" were those residents of Farmington living west of Mountain Road who attended the church in the West Division and were taxed annually for its financial support. Nathan Whiting, Thomas Goodman, and Timothy Gridley were appointed to serve as a committee to carry a petition to the General Assembly the following October. It was also voted to obtain from Hartford their approbation of this proposed action. By this action they showed a disposition to give Hartford people full opportunity to exercise and manifest a spirit of unselfishness and generosity with reference to the West Division people.

These petitions and efforts on the part of the people of the West Division were unsuccessful until the year 1854. At that time a petition was sent to the General Assembly at its May session in New Haven which resulted in favorable action. The following reasons were given in the petition: It was stated that "the West Division embraced territory six miles in length, and four miles in width, that it had a population of more than twelve hundred persons and taxable property of more than $20,000 in value, and that the community, in all important particulars, excelled the census of a large proportion of the towns of the State.*

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*There were at that time 150 towns in the State. Of this number, 80 had a population of less than 2,000 each, and 49 had a grand list of less than $20,000 each.

The inhabitants were subjected to many inconveniences and embarrassments on account of their present connection with the town and city of Hartford and their property and privileges would be essentially favored by the separation of said Society from the aforesaid town. Therefore they pray Your Honorable Body to set off the Parish of West Hartford as a separate town under the name of West Hartford with the ordinary corporate liabilities and powers of a town and entitled to one Representative in the General Assembly of the State."

This petition was dated at West Hartford April 17, 1854. If the whole truth were to be told in respect to the desire of the people of West Hartford for a separation from Hartford, it should be stated that there were ambitious politicians who felt that the West Division was not properly recognized in the choice of town officers and in the selection of candidates for representatives in the General Assembly.

The petition was signed by the following named residents of the West Division:

Solomon S. Flagg
Roderick Colton
Chester Faxon
Orin H. Dudley
George Butler
Alfred Bunker
Elihu Barber
Joel E. Rood
George Flagg
Gurdon Flagg
Austin Flagg
John Flagg
George D. Gates
J. G. Webster
Elliott Millard
James Whitman
Amos Braman
John Selden
Josiah W. Griswold
Truman Stanley
Elam L. Tuttle
Virgil Woodford
Joseph Bishop
Roswell Hurlburt
William H. Seymour
James Talcott
John B. Griswold
Frederick J. Butler
G. A. Hollister
Sylvanus Moody
Lyman Hotchkiss
David Selden
Oliver E. Barnes
Johnathan Butler
Nathan Butler
Samuel Whiting
Thomas Lamb
Eber Gridley
Orin Elmer
Lucius Elmer
John H. Steele
James Flagg
Milton Braman
Elizur Roberts
Chester Francis
Samuel Whiting, Jr.
Charles Malona
Edward Stanley
Charles Ramsay
Oliver S. Elmer
Chauncey Reed
Asa Goodman
Ralph Flagg
Luther Harris
Theron Millard
Joseph Talcott
Emerson A. Whiting
George Wells
Winthrop Callendar
Sherman Goodwin

Samuel Benedict
Willard Gladding
Edwin Roberts
Asaph Deming
Benjamin Withey
George Flagg, Jr.
Edmund Dart
David Stoddard
Elizur Keney
John Whitman
Chester C. Goodman
Frederick Brace
Henry E. French
Chester Colton
Joseph F. Hillhouse
Samuel Hurlburt
Hezekiah Cadwell
Andrew Hale
Asher Isham
Henry Foster
Jedediah W. Mills
John C. Mills
George W. Buckley
Daniel Spaulding
Samuel Root
William Dickinson
John Brady
Samuel Huntington
Nelson Sperry
George A. Brace
Amos Hurlburt
Orson S. Cadwell
Benjamin Dart
Chester Griswold
George N. Whiting
Dan L. Woodford
George North
H. D. Rice
H. E. Billings
Thomas O. Goodwin
Josiah Briggs
Charles W. Goodwin
John Reynolds
Chester Elmer
John C. Parsons
Allen Whiting

Eunice Olmsted
M. N. Morris
Frederick Hubbard
Thomas Belden
John M. Belden
Josiah Raymond
Patrick McCabe
Myron W. Luddington
Rufus Keney
Samuel Whitman
James B. Deming
Julius W. Deming
Allan S. Griswold
Henry A. King
Milo Bissell
F. L. Olmsted
Charles F. Rathbun
B. S. Bishop
Benjamin Bishop
Edmund Dart, Jr.
Charles S. Mills
R. G. H. Cone
Silas Hurlburt
William Capron
Leander Smith
Robert Holburn
Zephaniah Alden
Joseph Elmer
Benjamin Hodge
James W. Gladding
John Benham
Solomon Dunham
Childs Goodman
Lucius Gaylord
Patrick Martin
Homer Wells
B. Frank Bissell
Thomas Brace
Allyn Burr
Orange C. Butler
Blinn Francis
Oliver S. Deming
Sherman Steele
Justis Elmer
John McLean
Jason G. Shepard

Henry Kimberly

While this long list of names represented prominent families residing in all parts of the town, it appears that there were other residents who were not in favor of the movement for a separate town. A remonstrance to this petition was presented to the General Assembly stating "that every additional town in the State increases membership in an already overgrown House of Representatives; that the number of inhabitants in the proposed new town is not sufficiently large to warrant the granting of the petition; that the business intercourse of the inhabitants of said town territory with the present center of business of the town of Hartford is so constant and regular that it is much more convenient to transact town business as at present than under any other arrangement; that the necessary indebtedness for roads, bridges, and other town charges in the new proposed town would greatly increase the taxes of the people therein. For the foregoing, and many other reasons, the undersigned pray that the petition be not granted."

(Signed)

Benjamin Gilbert
Henry Hastings
Sherman Kimberly
Horace K. Seymour
B. W. Hamilton
P. G. Parsons
Pollard Merrills, Jr.
Daniel Hubbard
Ebenezer Bevans
Austin Cadwell
Walter Cadwell
George Steele
L. G. Harrinton
Edwin Brace
William H. Cone
Emerson Burr
Thomas Wells
Seth Kenyon
Sidney Wadsworth
M. B. Griswold
Henry Buckland
John Tuohey
W. B. Crane
Philip Corbin
Griswold Francis
Henry K. Moore
John Cannon
Goodwin Steele
Edward Brace
Lemuel Caswell

Charles G. Arnold
Benjamin B. Hastings
John Seavey
Mason Seymour
Alexander Hamilton
Ebenezer R. Hall
Perry Case
Henry Mix
Oliver Stanley
Oliver Cadwell
Moses Smith
Edward Steele
Morgan Goodwin
Thomas Montgomery
Timothy Stevens
Franklin Sisson
George W. Cadwell
Charles Wells
Daniel H. Teft
Samuel Root
George Wells
Timothy Sedgwick
Revillo Hubbard
James M. Cadwell
Rufus Wells
Edward Kelsey
Aralgie Newton
Alfred Whiting
Festus Higley
Hiram Webster

Harvey Goodwin
Joseph Davenport
J. F. Phelps
Edgar H. Seymour
Augustus Hamilton
George S. Merrils
George Cadwell
Julius Steele
Owen Goodwin
E. W. Caswell
John H. Seymour
Edwin Caswell
Reuben Hamlin
Warren S. Crane
Anson Francis
Levi Mitchell
George Giddings
James B. Hurlburt
Nathaniel H. Whiting
Edwin H. Arnold
Nathan Gilbert
O. A. Palmer
George H. Mix
Elizur Cadwell
Joseph B. Wheeler
Philo Smith
Joseph Sisson
Caleb Teft
Uriah T. Cadwell
Philo Pardee
F. G. Huntington
John Fish
James Riley
Ralph G. Wells
Stephen Sedgwick

The petition was favorably considered by the General Assembly, and on the first Wednesday of May (May 3) 1854, an act was passed declaring that "all that part of Hartford which is now included within the bounds of the Ecclesiastical Society of West Hartford with the inhabitants residing therein be, and the same is hereby incorporated into a separate town and by the name of West Hartford with all the privileges and immunities, and subject to all the duties and liabilities of other towns in the State, with the right to send one representative to the General Assembly; and said town shall be a part of the probate district of Hartford and of the First Senatorial District of the State."

My home at that time was on Farmington Avenue (then called Farmington Turnpike) at the point which is now the corner of Sherman Street. I chanced to be in the yard in front of the house with my father in the afternoon when some of the citizens of West Hartford, who had been in New Haven anxiously waiting for a decision by that body in regard to their petition, passed the house on their way to their homes in West Hartford, and I heard them shout as they waved their hands, "We've got it ! We've got it !"

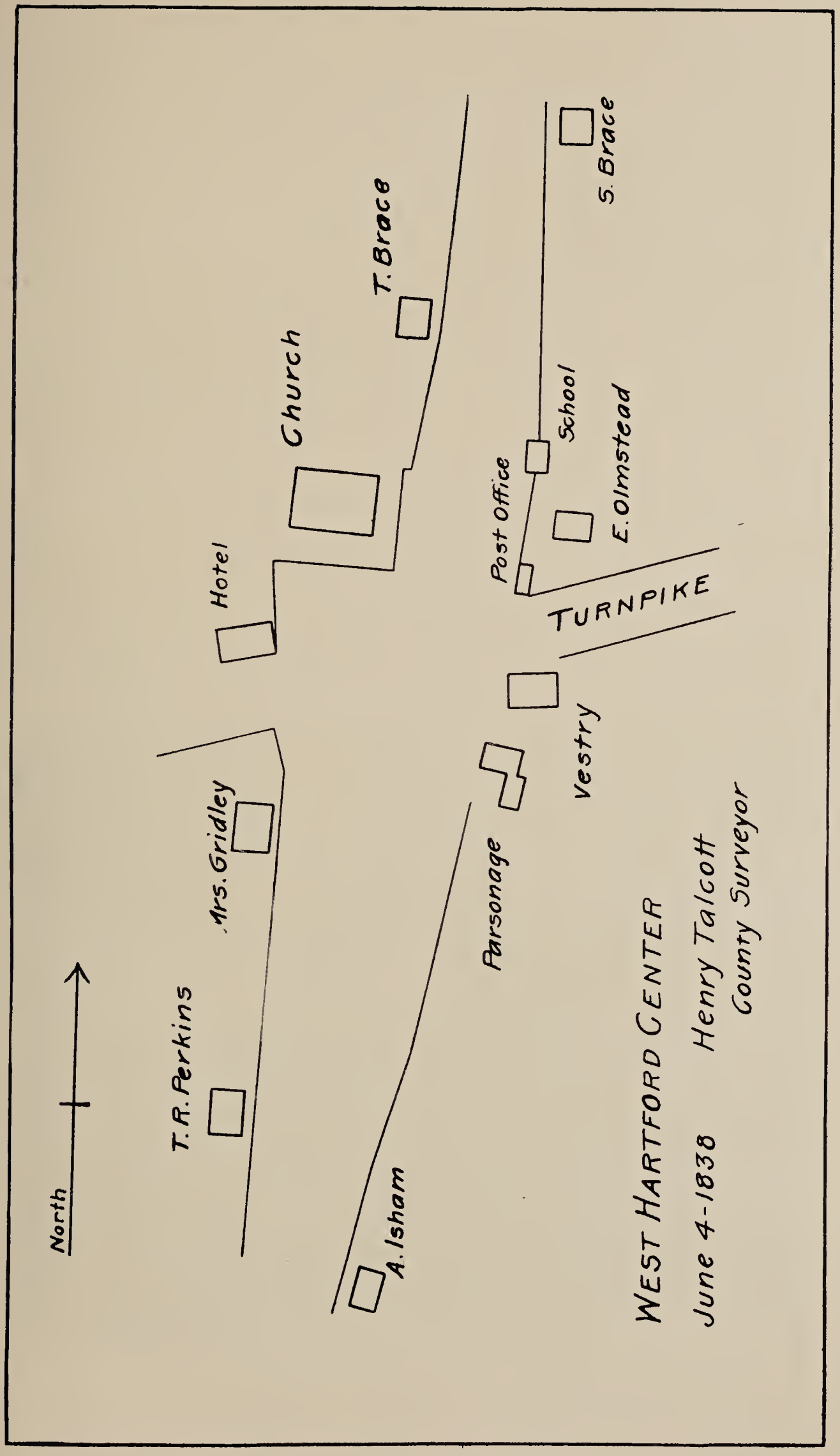
As soon as the people of West Hartford had received the good news, they gathered in goodly numbers on Goodman Park and proceeded to celebrate the event by marching through the principal streets, bearing banners and under the leadership and inspiration of a drum and fife corps.

The act of The Connecticut General Assembly incorporating West Hartford as a separate town in 1854 authorized Solomon S. Flagg, whose name appeared first on the petition of West Hartford people which had been presented to the Assembly, to issue

a call for the first town meeting, to be held in June of that year.

The meeting was held at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of June 19th in the old Vestry located on the southeast corner of Farmington Turnpike and West Hartford Main Street. Col. Solomon S. Flagg was the moderator. The usual officers of a Connecticut town were elected, including selectmen, town clerk, town treasurer, tax collector, assessors, board of relief, grand jurors, constables, sealer of weights and measures, fence viewers, pound keepers, haywards, etc. The first business to be transacted in addition to the election of the officers was to provide for the erection of sign-posts in different sections of the town as follows: near Capt. George Flagg's house, at the corner near the house of Horace K. Seymour, and near the residence of Seth Talcott. The first mentioned location was at the corner of Albany Turnpike and West Hartford Main Street, the second at the corner of East Street (now South Quaker Lane) and Park Road, and the third at the corner of East Street, or South Quaker Lane, at New Britain Avenue.

The officers elected at that June meeting were to serve until the following December, when the plan for inaugurating a regular annual town meeting to be held in October was introduced. Col. Solomon Flagg was the first selectman, John Whitman the first town clerk, and Samuel Whitman the first town treasurer.


S. Brace
T. Brace
Church
School
E. Olmstead
Post Office
Hotel
TURNPIKE
Vestry
Parsonage
Mrs. Gridley
T. R. Perkins
A. Isham
North
WEST HARTFORD CENTER
June 4-1838 Henry Talcott
County Surveyor

THE WEST HARTFORD OF EARLIER DAYS

The Center — The contrast between West Hartford Center as it appeared eighty years ago and as it is today is of interest.

Some of the buildings located there at that earlier date still remain, but in changed form and condition. The oldest of these is the rectory of St. James Episcopal Church, which was built in 1758 for Rev. Nathaniel Hooker, the second pastor of the (Congregational) Fourth Church of Christ. It originally stood nearer to the street, and had a fine old-fashioned double front door. It has been remodeled twice but still retains, in general, its original features. The brick house north of the Masonic Temple, on the west side of Goodman Park, is also one of the old buildings at the Center. It was originally a single-family dwelling house, and has undergone many changes in the course of the passing years.

The large building on the north side of Farmington Avenue and the west side of Main Street now known as the Town Hall was built as a church in 1834 and was used for that purpose until 1882. Its exterior form and appearance are much the same as when it was used as a church, except that the tower is not as high as formerly. The grounds were originally enclosed on the south and east by an ornamental fence with gateways and along the

ST. JAMES CHURCH RECTORY

line of this fence in the yard were fine old maple trees which Mr. Mark Gridley, a farmer residing on Selden Hill, planted about the time the church was built. One of those trees, at the northeast corner of the yard, is still standing and in good condition.

The house on the east side of Main Street owned by Mrs. Susie B. Andrews, which was recently moved to the north to make room for the Bank building, is also old. It was built in 1832 by Elihu Olmsted, the second postmaster of West Hartford, for his residence. The post office was kept in a small, gambrel-roofed building which stood in the corner in front of Mr. Olmsted's house and well out in the street.

Just north of Mr. Olmsted's house, close to the road, was the old gambrel-roofed brick Center schoolhouse, probably one of the three built by the Ecclesiastical Society in 1745, and used for public school purposes until 1865.

OLD VESTRY AND FIRST TOWN HALL

On the southeast corner of Farmington Turnpike and Main Street, opposite the post office and standing on a high bank, was a building known as the Vestry. It was built on the northwest corner of the farm land of Samuel Whitman, grandfather of former Town Clerk Henry C. Whitman, and was practically given by him in 1833 to the Ecclesiastical Society as a site for the Vestry. The following is a copy of the lease given by Mr. Whitman.

"To the persons it doth or may concern — Know ye that I Samuel Whitman of Hartford in the County of Hartford and State of Connecticut for the consideration of fifty cents a year do lease for eight years to John Belden, Ralph Wells, J. W. Mills, Al-

bigence Scarborough and others, the present standing Committee of the Congregational Church in Hartford West Society and their successors in office so much of the northwest corner of my lot near the meeting house in said society as shall be necessary for the erection and convenience of a building to be used for a vestry and other purposes under the direction of said Committee."

This plain, one-story building was used by the church for holding the sessions of the Sunday school, the weekly prayer meetings, and the business meetings of the Society. Occasionally it was rented for other purposes of a public nature. When West Hartford became a town in 1854, the selectmen made arrangements with the Society for its use for town meetings, caucuses, political rallies, etc. In 1863 the town purchased the building, and it became the first Town Hall in West Hartford. It was continued as such until 1881 when it became the property of the Ecclesiastical Society again and, with adjoining land, the site of the new stone church building.

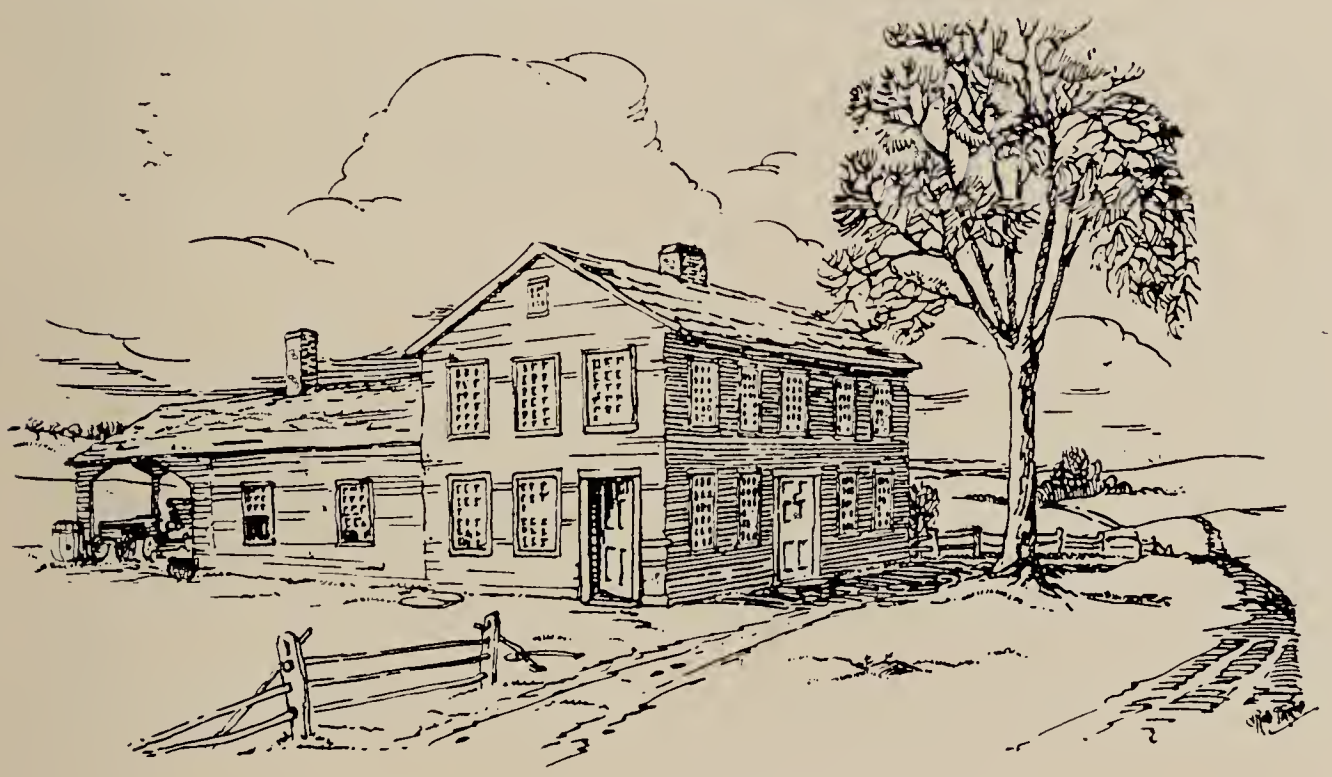
South and east of the Vestry were the horse sheds, where the teams in which the people from different parts of the town came to church on Sunday were housed during the services. Each shed was divided into sections or stalls, and each section was owned by some individual or family. As these sheds were not always kept in good condition, and as tall burdocks and other weeds were allowed to grow around them and around the Vestry, that corner at the Center did not add to the attractiveness of the locality. On the eastern end of the southern row of horse sheds and a little south of it was a small building with double doors in front, where the one-horse, plain, sombre black town hearse was kept. There were other horse sheds south of the church at its west end and in the back yards of Elihu Olmsted and Thomas Brace. For the use of those who did not own or rent sheds, there were rows of hitching posts all about.

On the north side of Farmington Turnpike just east of where the Baptist Church is now located was a tavern. When Farmington Turnpike was opened in 1800, it ran through the farm of Walter Deming west of the Center. Mr. Deming built the tavern on the northeast corner of his land soon after the road was opened. At a later date the tavern came into the possession of a man who was a degenerate descendant of one of the early families of the town, and under his management it became a disreputable place. Some of the good citizens of the town, desiring to preserve the moral character and condition of the community, raised a fund and commissioned John Whitman to act as their representative and purchase the tavern. This was done. The premises were sold a little later for a private residence and continued as such until sold in 1857 to the Baptist Church as a site for a church building. For about a year the public services of the church

were held in the spacious ballroom on the second floor. When the church was built, the tavern building was sold and moved to a position farther west on Farmington Avenue and converted into a tenement with provision for four or five families. It has since been reconstructed and is now the two family dwelling at Nos. 980 and 982 Farmington Avenue.

On the west side of Main Street south of the house which is now the rectory of St. James Church, about where the residence of Charles H. Ellsworth now is, was the old Academy building which was in use for many years prior to 1845.

The North End — After the Talcott Mountain Turnpike was opened in 1798, and a stage line from Hartford to Albany along this and two other connecting turnpikes was established, the northern part of the West Division became a somewhat busy locality. There were two taverns on the turnpike at the corner of that road and West Hartford's central or main street. One of these, of which Aaron Goodman was the proprietor, was on the northwest corner of the two roads; the other was a little east of the corner on the north side of the turnpike.



GOODMAN TAVERN—FIRST POSTOFFICE

On the southeast corner where Welch's restaurant is now located, Capt. George Flagg had a shoe shop in which he employed several men and apprentices making boots and shoes. Just south of his shop on the west side of the road was a one-story wagon shop.

On the north side of the turnpike, near the foot of the hill west of the corner, was the blacksmith shop of Levi Sedgwick, under the shade of a large maple tree, where:

"The children, going home from school
Looked in at the open door.
They loved to see the flaming forge
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that fly,
Like chaff from a threshing floor."

LEVI SEDGWICK'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

Mr. Sedgwick was a man of sterling character, a skillful workman, of industrious and thrifty habits, a highly respected citizen. I thought, in my schoolboy days, as I saw him occasionally in his shop, and on Sunday sitting among his boys in the village church, that he was the veritable village blacksmith described by Longfellow in his poem.

The workmen in the shops, their patrons, the stage coach passengers and teamsters in the taverns, the people of the community who frequented the ballrooms and barrooms, and those other residents of the community who occasionally called at the post office in the Goodman tavern for their mail, all contributed to the life and activity of the community. The fact that the public school in that locality was the only one in the West Division occupying two rooms may be taken as evidence that the North End was a populous neighborhood then. The Cadwells, Butlers, Elmers, Flaggs, Goodmans, and Whitings living there at that time had large families of children.

The South End — The southern section of the community in the early years of its history was distinguished on account of its manufacturing enterprises, a distinction which it still retains. The abundance and quality of the clay which was found there led to the establishment of several brick yards and of flourishing

potteries. On the west side of the road now known as South Quaker Lane and on the bank of Noyes River near where it passes under the bridge was a mill or factory for making woolen cloth. On Piper Brook, the stream that comes in from Newington, and at a point on the south side of New Britain Avenue where it makes a sharp turn to westward, was a mill pond and a shop where Asaph Deming made and repaired ploughs for the farmers. On the north side of the road just east of the present rectory of St. Bridget's Church, Chester Faxon had a shop where he made and repaired wagons.

The South Road to Farmington was undoubtedly an important thoroughfare, but there appears to be no evidence of its ever being chartered as a turnpike. Harvey Goodwin at one time kept a tavern in the brick house still standing on the north

SARAH WHITMAN HOOKER HOUSE

side of the road east of the railroad, and the house at the top of Four Mile Hill, the home of Sarah Whitman Hooker in the days of the Revolutionary War, was later owned by Capt. Jedediah W. Mills and kept as a public house known as the Sheaf of Wheat Inn. There is a tradition that Washington and Lafayette were at one time entertained there. There is a tradition that the present residence of Mrs. Ralph E. Gerth, farther west on New Britain Avenue, was at one time a tavern, but of this there is no positive evidence.

Pounds — The grass which grew abundantly in the country roads of the West Division, on the sides of the narrow traveled wagon path, often proved a strong temptation to the cattle and cows of the farmers, and if they found a weak place in the pasture fence by the side of the road, they would break through to feed by the roadside. Some of the farmers were wont also to bait their cows in the road at times. It finally became necessary for the people to elect annually in town meeting certain officials a part of whose duties it was to take stray animals found in the roads to enclosures called pounds, which had been provided for their confinement.

These pounds, each surrounded by a high board fence with a gate that could be locked, were located by the side of the road at convenient points in different parts of the community. At the North End the pound was on the south side of the road now known as Flagg Road, just west of the present residence of John A. Butler. At the Center there was a pound on the west side of Main Street about opposite the old cemetery. Farther south on Main Street there was a pound on the west side of the street a little distance south of the Noah Webster birthplace, and at the South End was another pound near the corner on the east side of the old road to Newington. Probably there were pounds also in the western and eastern parts of the community. In connection with each of the pounds a near-by resident officiated as "pound keeper," caring for the animals while in confinement and collecting fees from their owners when they came to secure their release.

The last pound in West Hartford to disappear was located on Ridgewood Road in the southwestern part of the town. It was removed to that locality from South Main Street after all the other pounds had disappeared.

Early Stores — There were but few stores in the West Hartford of long ago. It is quite probable that as early as 1832 Elihu Olmsted, the postmaster, kept a few articles for sale in the building out in the corner of the road in front of his house where the post office then was.

His successor, Nathan Burr, built a two-story, two-room building on the southwest corner of Farmington Turnpike and West Hartford Main Street west of Goodman Park. The post office was on the first floor in one front corner, and in the opposite corner was a small showcase, with shelves on the wall back of it.

The writer still retains very pleasing memories of the glass jars that stood on the shelves, containing sticks of candy of different colored stripes and peppermint drops of various colors.

Mr. Burr had a shoemaker's shop on the second floor. He gave his attention mostly to that, while Mrs. Burr cared for the post office and the store, dealing out to customers a few staple groceries, candies, and Yankee notions.

Mr. Leonard Buckland, who succeeded Mr. Burr as postmaster and owner of the corner property, gradually built up a substantial business in the grocery line. He devoted special attention to the selection of his goods, driving to Hartford occasionally with his one-horse wagon, purchasing his supplies at

BUCKLAND RESIDENCE AND STORE, 1856

the wholesale stores, and bringing them out to West Hartford. His business developed slowly for many of the farmers and other citizens of the community still adhered to the custom of going to Hartford once a week to do their trading. However, it may be truthfully stated that the foundation for business in connection with stores, which is now an important feature of the town, was laid in those years when West Hartford was still a parish of Hartford, by Leonard Buckland.

In 1881 Walter Cadwell bought land on South Main Street and erected a building where he, in partnership with John H. Fish of Newington, conducted a grocery and meat business for several years, maintaining in connection with it meat routes through the town and in adjoining towns. The post office was in that building during Mr. Cadwell's term of service as postmaster. After the business was closed up, the building was leased by the town for a few years for the use of a primary school before the new school building was erected on School Street in 1896.

On April 4, 1898, Myron J. Burnham, who for several years

had been associated with the flourishing grocery firm of Hills & Smith on Asylum Street in Hartford, came to West Hartford and began business in the building on South Main Street, succeeding the Guilfoil Grocery Company. His helpers at first consisted of one man and a boy. Mrs. Burnham served as bookkeeper.

BUCKLAND STORE AND POST OFFICE

The careful attention given by Mr. Burnham to the interests of his customers in providing goods of first quality and in prompt and courteous attention to their needs and desires speedily secured for him a large and ever increasing patronage, not only by residents of West Hartford but by residents of adjoining towns and of the western section of the city of Hartford. He has found it necessary to enlarge the building four times. In 1910 he added a well equipped meat department and later a bakery. The floor space now devoted to offices is equal to the entire floor space of the original building. The business at first amounted to $27,000 per annum. It has now reached the annual sum of over $750,000, and the force of employees now assisting Mr. Burnham consists of seventy persons. Mr. Burnham's business is still increasing from year to year.

The storekeepers in West Hartford and other country towns were accustomed to keep for sale a few of the standard medicinal remedies for the benefit of those families that did not have them on hand in their homes or did not secure them from the village physician. In some towns remote from the cities there were drug stores, but there seemed to be no call for such in West Hartford. Mr. Allen B. Judd was the first person to establish a drug store.

In February, 1899, he opened a fully equipped store in a three-story business and apartment building on the present site of the Boston Branch Grocery building on the south side of Farmington Avenue, just west of Main Street. He continued his business there for about a year, then moved to the building on the corner of Farmington Avenue and South Main Street, commonly known as the Buckland Building, in which the post office was located. He built up a flourishing business, but under unfavorable conditions with respect to proper accommodations. In 1922 this building was removed, Mr. Judd locating temporarily in the old brick dwelling house just south of the corner, and the fine new building which now adorns the corner, commonly spoken of as the Judd Block, was erected, in which Mr. Judd had a store fully equal to some of the large city drug stores. He continued there until November, 1926, when he sold out and retired from the business.

JUDD BLOCK

MEMORIES OF SOCIAL LIFE IN THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"

The social life of West Hartford, in common with that of many other New England towns in days of old, was quite informal and simple in its manifestations but permeated by a beautiful spirit of kindly interest and cordial friendship.

Families living near each other in different sections or localities were accustomed to frequent one another's homes in a very free and easy way, at morning, noon, or night, to inquire as to one another's welfare, to communicate the latest news, or to bring choice flowers or vegetables from the garden or dainties or more substantial food from the pantry. Such visits were often of daily occurrence, and the members of those families were bound together in neighborly and friendly bonds almost like the bonds of kinship. Of course there were those who maintained a spirit of independence, almost of exclusiveness, who seldom called on their neighbors, and if they did so at rare intervals were careful to observe strict rules and customs of society as to dress, manners, and times.

There were many families who were somewhat closely related by ties of kinship. Back and forth and among them there was usually considerable visiting of uncles, aunts, and cousins.

The manifestations of the friendly neighborly spirit at some time during the year took the form of basket picnics at Bartlett's Tower on Talcott Mountain, or Shuttle Meadow Lake near New Britain, or nearer home on Selden Hill, or in Burr's Grove, or at Whitman Falls. (Elizabeth Park in those days was a swampy wooded pasture.) The place, so long as it provided natural attractions, was not of so much importance as was the spirit of the occasion. Then in the autumn came the husking bees on some farmer's spacious barn floor lighted for the occasion by lanterns, when the husking of the corn was intermingled with song, stories, and joyous laughter. At the close there was feasting on doughnuts, apples, and pumpkin pies, and for the young men, "going home with the girls."

At times "surprise parties" prevailed. Someone had built a new house, or married a wife, and thereupon his friends and neighbors secretly planned to go to his home some evening in a body and take him by surprise, carrying with them provisions for a feast and spending an evening of social enjoyment. Oftentimes the person thus taken by surprise would later plan a similar surprise on the leader of the party that had surprised him, and the spirit having been thus aroused, parties were extended from time to time to other homes until such visits became expected events and no longer a surprise.

In the winter the social enjoyments often were in connection with sleigh ride parties, when a company of friends and neighbors would climb into a farmer's two-horse sled, sit down in the straw on the floor of the sled body, and ride away over the drifted roads to the music of the sleigh bells on the horses, as far as Windsor or Rockville or New Britain. There they would take supper at the tavern or hotel, and then return to their homes, perhaps by a different and longer route.

In these and other ways the social spirit of the community was cultivated and perpetuated and the dull, monotonous round of daily tasks in the home or on the farm or in the shop was brightened and cheered. Because of these experiences there is good warrant for referring to that period in our history, as some people are wont to do, as "the good old days."

Prominent in the memories of one's boyhood are those occasions when relatives or friends living in some distant part of the state or in some other state came in their family carriages or wagons to make a visit of several days. Such an occasion was a great event for them and for those whom they visited. It was especially welcomed by the young people in the home, for such visits were an interruption and change in the daily routine of farm life and afforded the rare opportunity of association with young people of another community.

At some time during the visit a trip was taken to Hartford for sight-seeing. The principal objects of interest to be shown to the "country cousins" were the wonderful reservoir on Lords' Hill, the old Statehouse with its little park and fountain on its eastern front, the historical collection in the rooms of the Connecticut Historical Society in the Wadsworth Atheneum, the Charter Oak, and the dike which Col. Samuel Colt had built enclosing a part of the South Meadow, with the curious Swiss cottages on its inner bank. There must be also a drive down to Wethersfield for a visit to the State Prison. On another day the friends were taken out to Wadsworth Tower on Talcott Mountain north of the Albany turnpike, for sight-seeing from the top of the tower and for a picnic under the shade of the fine old forest trees. If time permitted another day for sight-seeing before the friends returned to their homes, a visit was made to the ruins of the old State Prison at Copper Hill, or to Shuttle Meadow Lake near New Britain.

These new experiences afforded the visitors much pleasure, and provided material for many a story to be related to friends and neighbors on their return to their homes.

When the time came for the West Hartford people to return the visit, perhaps a year later, the event was looked forward to with great interest, especially by the younger members of the

family. The time chosen for such visits was usually during the latter part of the summer, "after haying." The family horse was brought in from the pasture the night before the day for starting out and given an extra ration of oats or provender. At about half past four o'clock the next morning the members of the family, and the baggage, were packed into the best carriage or wagon, and the journey began. It was necesaary to get an early start, for this journey was to be a long one of forty or fifty miles, out into some distant part of the state. If the journey was eastward, into some part of Windham or New London County, then the family passed through the streets of the city while they were still quiet and dark, through the old covered toll bridge, across the Connecticut River and on into a strange land. Perhaps a midday meal would be enjoyed at some old stage coach tavern on the turnpike, and a little time spent in resting. Then the journey would be continued until, as the evening shadows were coming on and the weird song of the whippoorwill was heard in the pasture land a little distance from the road, the home of the friends to be visited was reached and the journey ended.

The days that followed were replete with strange adventures amid new scenes, and with new and joyous experiences for the young people, affording material for many stories to be told later to friends and acquaintances at home, and to be remembered with pleasure for many a year in after life.

The most delightful memories of old time visitors seem, in the mind of the writer, to be connected with Thanksgiving Day — not alone with respect to the home gathering and the feast around the family table, but in connection with the service held in the old village church. The sons and daughters, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, and cousins were accustomed to come from homes far and near, on Thanksgiving, back to their childhood homes, or to the homes of relatives and friends; and in connection with those visits, they made a practice of attending the public Thanksgiving Day service in the village church. That seemed to be, in their estimation, an important part of the proper observance of the day. How cordially, and happily, these visitors, at the close of the service, greeted the people whom they had known in childhood or in later years, even including in their greetings all whom they met. What interest they manifested in all the people whom they met and greeted, just as though all were members of one happy family group. And with what reverent and affectionate regard they greeted the pastor of the church and expressed their appreciation of him and of his service. Thanksgiving in those years was a veritable Old Home Day in West Hartford, graced and cheered by the presence and friendliness of such welcome visitors.

Occasionally, in the early days of West Hartford history, bold, venturesome people dared to attempt a journey to the far-

away country of New York State, or Ohio, or possibly Illinois. It is related that whenever one undertook such a journey, he would make his will before his departure, lest he might never return. But when such a visitor did return, he had marvelous stories to tell of his observances and experiences in the far-away land of his travels. The story of a journey to New York State and of travelling on the wonderful canal boats of the Erie Canal provided entertainment for many a fireside circle for years afterwards.

One prominent citizen of West Hartford, Jonathan Butler, whose home was in a house which is still standing on North Main Street near the Bloomfield line, as early as 1825 had

OLD BUTLER HOUSE

a pleasure wagon built to order, and in it he and his daughter Eliza made a journey to Ohio to visit another daughter, whose home was on the southern shore of Lake Erie. Their journey was over very crude, rough roads a part of the way, and along trails or paths a part of the way where roads had not been made. The story of this journey and its experiences was often told in the family circle and to friends in the succeeding generations.

The writer regrets that he cannot show, in this connection, a picture of one of the fine old family carriages which were in use in his boyhood days, for conveyance to Church on Sunday

JONATHAN BUTLER'S WAGON.
BUILT IN 1825 AND STILL IN USE IN 1927

and for family visits to other parts of the community or to other communities, but apparently none of these carriages have been preserved intact, and it is not possible to obtain a photograph. Many of them were elegant equipages with fine upholstery and trimmings.

Come with me on wings of memory for a brief visit to the old church of my childhood days.

It is a beautiful Sunday morning in June. We are early and will stand outside under the shade of the maples in the yard for a little while. The people are beginning to come from the east, west, north, and south in goodly numbers, some on foot but many more in family wagons and carriages, with two and in some instances three seats all occupied by members of the family or neighbors who have been invited to join them. The best of vehicles will cause no comment nowadays, but when Captain Ebenezer Faxon drove to church in the first four-wheeled carriage used here, the people were greatly disturbed at such a vain show and desecration of the Sabbath, and he was permitted to continue its use only upon condition that he drive very slowly. The farmers who have the fleetest horses will get upon the road first and arrive early, for it is not considered proper for one team to pass another on the way to church.

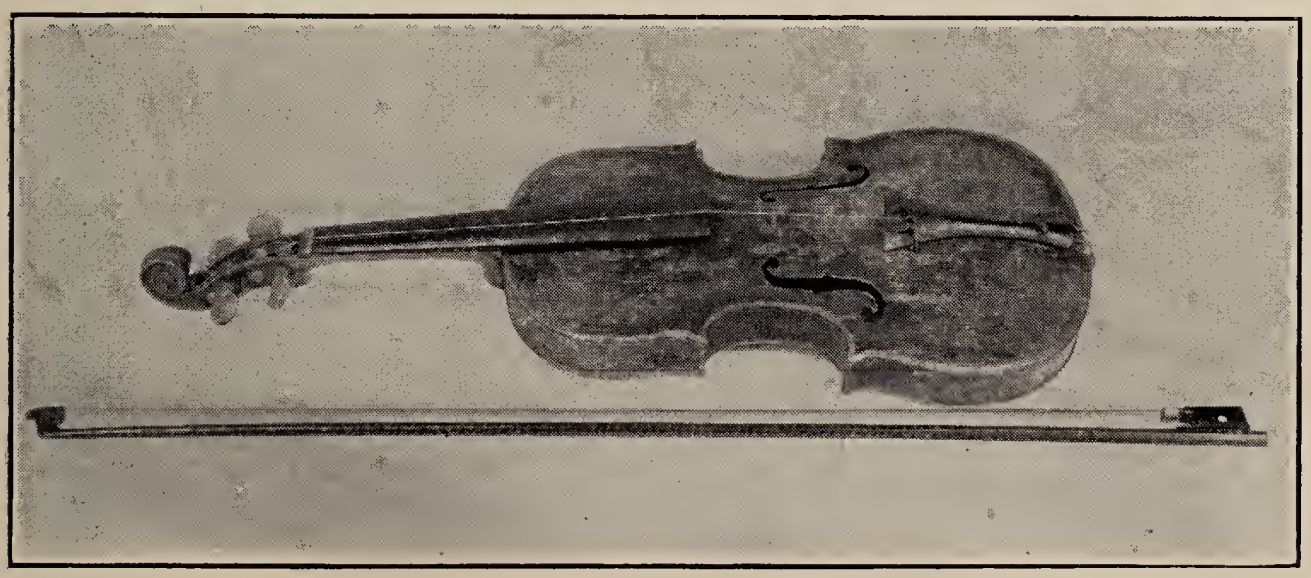
The women alight in front of the church, and the men drive

away to hitch their horses in the sheds. Presently the sexton begins to ring the fine old bell in the tall tower. Soon he will toll it; then the minister and his family will come out from the parsonage opposite the park, cross the street, and enter the church. The family is ushered into their pew in the center aisle well up in front, and the minister enters the pulpit.

The pulpit is at the west end of the auditorium, high up, approached on each side by a winding stairway. On the wall above the pulpit, on a board painted white, is seen MDCCCXXXIV, giving the date when the church was built. And there in the gallery, opposite the pulpit, are the seats for the choir, tier upon tier. Along the front, suspended from a brass railing, are short damask curtains designed, when drawn, partially to conceal the front row of singers from the gaze of the congregation. Over there in the corner, leaning against the wall, is the big bass viol, silent now, but resonant with deep tones when Benjamin Sterling Bishop puts his hand to the bow. And Thomas Brace, the chorister, has brought his fine old violin from his house near by, and Julius W. Deming is there with his flute. The faithful members of the choir will fill the seats.

The tolling of the bell ceases. The men who love to linger on the porch until the very last moment hasten in. The service begins. The minister announces and reads the opening hymn. The chorister in low tones announces the tune to the choir, and soon all are singing.

An account of the chorister and his violin seems to be appropriate at this point. In 1820 Lory Brace, who was then chorister, purchased a violin of a sea captain who had brought it from Holland. Mr. Brace used it as chorister and on other occasions for many years. After his death his son Thomas Brace inherited the violin and succeeded his father as chorister. He used it in church until the church organ was purchased in 1867. He also used it in conducting weekly singing schools in West Hartford and many



THE BRACE VIOLIN

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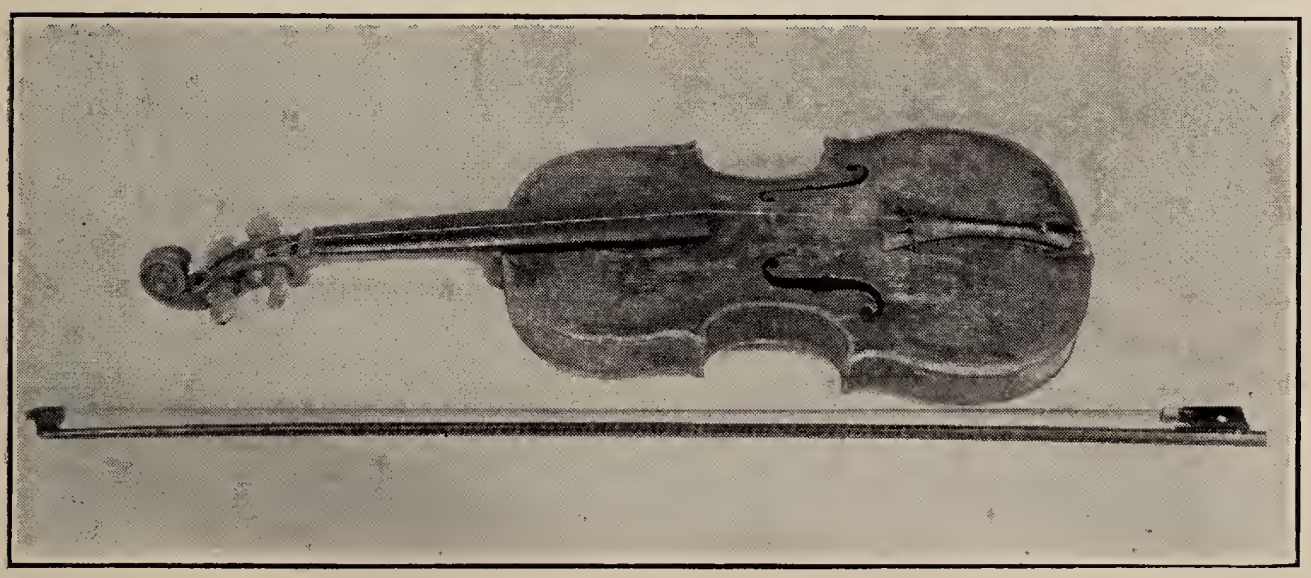


THE BRACE VIOLIN

With zeal they spoke and fitly of Zion's sacred walls,
And crowns that for the victors wait where splendor falls;
Each at his post was earnest as hour by hour went round,
Each reared the altar at his home, or in his pew was found;
And strange indeed would be the fate, and point to fortune dire,
If Uncle Thomas e'er should miss the old church choir.

HOME OF THOMAS BRACE

Here stands the temple lofty, with pillars four,
And here yon bell flung out its tones and pealed them o'er and o'er;
The tower loomed like a castle, with sweep of scenes around,
And fingers pointing to the sky from holy ground.
A blessed, peaceful country! No surge of strife was there
When wagons wound from nook and dell all to that place of prayer.
Now rose each matron and each maid, and harkened son and sire,
While Uncle Thomas gave the chord to the old church choir.

But changed indeed the faces from those of yore;
The viol and the flute are heard as through those aisles no more.
Grave men that lordly worshipped, pale mothers meek and gray,

Their forms in yonder grassy slope are laid away;
Sealed are those lips and silent that vied in homely throng;
The eyes that scanned the noted page are dimmed, alas how long!
The children then that sprightly played now listless sit and tire,
And Uncle Thomas leads no more the old church choir.

The years have run a-fleeting! So soon their sum
For all who tell the ancient tale in turn must surely come!
Fond requiems, hear them tolling! And but a little while
Until the daisies on the hill for us shall smile;
Yet in my dreams, entrancing, such strain the night doth fill
The bass and tenor lusty loud, the trebles in a trill,
And gates of heaven just ajar flash out their crystal fire
Where Uncle Thomas seems to lead the old church choir.

Refrain

1164938

The old church choir! The old church choir!
Oh how their raptured voices rang, in accents swelling higher
They sang the songs that David sang, to tuneful harp and lyre,
The time when Uncle Thomas led the old church choir.

When in 1867 many of the people of the church and congregation were in favor of purchasing a pipe organ to take the place of the violin, flute, and bass viol, there was considerable opposition by those who protested against such a "desecration of the house of the Lord." Finally the minister, Rev. Myron N. Morris, saw fit to preach a sermon one Sunday taking for his text a verse from the book of Psalms: "Praise Him with stringed instruments and organs." The opposition soon quieted down and the organ was purchased and continued in use for sixty years.

Before this chapter of memories is brought to a close, a few pages must be given to the old church bell. In former years in New England communities the church bell was an important factor in public life. It was customary to have it rung daily at twelve o'clock noon and at nine o'clock at night. In a sense the village sexton was the public timekeeper.

When the bell rang at noon, the farmers, busy with their labors in the fields, recognized the signal and repaired to their homes or to the shade of nearby trees to partake of the noonday

meal and enjoy a brief season of rest. The children in school, and the teachers as well, rejoiced that the time had come for an hour of glad release. The tones of the bell at nine o'clock at night were not as cheery as at noon. Young people away from their own homes recognized the salutary warning that it was time to say good night and return thither, and all "honest people" at home or abroad realized that it was time to be in bed.

The tolling of the church bell announcing a death in the community, the hour of a funeral service, or the passing of a funeral procession was of considerable importance at a time when there were no daily newspapers in the homes, and when the people were more inclined to give heed to the sad and solemn experiences of human life than in our hurrying, rushing age.

The bell which now hangs in the tower of the Congregational Church at West Hartford Center, is an object of considerable historical interest and importance. It bears on its surface the following inscription:

FOR WARD BARTHOLOMEW & BRAINARD HARTFORD
DOOLITTLE FECIT 1828

It was probably purchased and hung in the belfry of the second church building as early as 1828. When the new church (now the Town Hall) was built in 1834, the bell was transferred to the tower of that church, from which its tones could be heard for miles in every direction; and again in 1882 it was transferred to its present position in the "graystone church."

For many years prior to its last removal, it was rung daily by the sexton, and also on the occasion of a death or a funeral in the community in accordance with the prevailing custom. In like manner its rapidly repeating tones have been heard before dawn on Fourth of July morning, to the delight of wide awake, patriotic boys, and the discomfort of late sleepers, but really as a patriotic recognition of an important historical event. During the later years, before the town had public provision for fire protection or means for giving alarm in case of fires, it has often been used as a fire alarm. It is almost a wonder that it still continues in good condition, sending out its summons to public worship or to patriotic service.

In 1881, when the new church was in process of construction, Miss Florence E. Flagg, a native of West Hartford, wrote a poem about the old bell. A part of the poem is here given.

You're going to build a brand new church
    You've voted to, I hear,
And put one side the old one now
    For fifty years so dear.

You're going to sell out everything
And build one grand and new;
And those opposed to such a plan
I think are very few.

Nor would I find a word of fault;
Indeed I'm very glad
To think you're going to do this thing,
Although a trifle sad.

But when you come to tear it down,
Whatever else you sell,
For one thing there I fain would beg:
Please spare our dear old bell!

And this I think you well may do;
For look the country 'round,
So fine a tone, so sweet and grand,
Not oftentimes is found.

Such depth, such power are in the notes
That from that steeple fall,
And just a grain of sadness
Is mingled with it all.

I've heard it time and time again
For nigh to fifty years,
Sometimes with heart filled full of joy,
Sometimes mid falling tears.

I've heard it when at closing day
It told the evening hour;
Or called to church on Sabbath morn,
With voice so full of power;

Or when the long, black funeral train
Was passing slowly by,
It tolled in sad and solemn tones
For one more gone on high.

It always seemed to have a voice
That acted like a spell;
One always paused to listen to
The ring of that old bell.

* * * * * *

So when you build your fine new church,
And move from out the old,
Which is rather soiled, I must confess,
Sometimes a trifle cold,

When I sit within the new one,
In the warmth and radiance shed
By the sunlight through the window,
Throwing light rays on my head;

And when I gaze around me
On all things strange and new,
In this church-to-come you're planning
With its low and modern pew,

With carpets rich and tasty,
Yielding softly to the tread,
With its chapel, nave, and chancel,
And its arched wall overhead,

You may build it all as suits you best.
Whatever else you sell,
For one thing there I fain would beg:
Please spare our dear old bell!

And when you come to move it,
Please handle it with care,
As if it were a thing most frail,
Something precious, rich and rare.

Miss Flagg is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Flagg, whose home was on the south side of Albany Turnpike near its junction with West Hartford Main Street. In addition to her studies in the West Hartford Academy and the Hartford High School, Miss Flagg pursued special study in biology and botany, and at one time devoted attention to laboratory work at Woods Hole, Mass. She taught for a few years in the West Hartford public schools at the North End and on Prospect Hill, and in 1884 was appointed teacher of natural science in the Mount Hermon School For Boys, in which position she is still rendering service.

EARLY OCCUPATIONS AND INDUSTRIES

Many of the early inhabitants of the West Division were farmers. The sections of land which had been laid out in 1674, a mile and a half long from west to east, were of diversified character affording fine opportunities for woodlands, pasturage, meadows, and cultivated fields. The farmers cultivated the staple crops of corn, potatoes, and grain, and kept horses, oxen, cows, swine, and poultry. During the years when the woolen mill was in operation in the southern part of the town, they kept sheep. The grand list of taxable property in the parish at that time reveals the fact that there were at one time three thousand sheep on the farms of the West Division. The farmers' wives, and daughters made butter and cheese, which were in demand and highly prized in the private homes and grocery stores of Hartford.

Many of the farmers observed one day of each week as market day, when they drove to Hartford over the hilly, muddy, or dusty roads, to deliver their produce to their Hartford customers. This was really a holiday for them, when farm work was, to a considerable extent, set aside and when the farmers from different parts of the community met at the Hartford stores and, in addition to doing their trading, spent some time in visiting, relating the latest news, discussing politics, the weather, or the crops, and telling stories which they had treasured up, or made up, for the occasion. Occasionally, possibly two or three times during the year, the farmers' wives or daughters went with them on market day to the city, to do their shopping at the dry goods stores, shoe stores, or milliners' shops. The procession of farmers' teams from the West Division and communities beyond to the westward, passing on their way to Hartford on market days, was quite a noticeable feature of the life of the community.

Another important occupation was that of operating the saw mills and grist mills. The first saw mill was Stephen Hosmer's, built in 1679 on the north bank of the stream now known as Trout Brook, where it crosses West Hartford North Main Street. Another old mill was located on the south side of Talcott Mountain Turnpike about where the present entrance to the premises of Morgan B. Brainard is. At West Hartford Center on the north side of Farmington Turnpike, at the foot of the hill where the Trout Brook Ice Company's plant has been located in these later years, was another old saw mill. At a later period Edward Stanley and John Thompson formed a partnership and built a combined saw and grist mill on the stream now known as Trout Brook, west of Mountain Road and quite a distance north of Farmington Turnpike, which was approached by a narrow road now known as Albany Place. This mill was destroyed by the

OLD CENTER GRISTMILL

breaking away of Reservoir No. 1 in 1867. The farmers would take their logs on sleds to the saw mills in the winter and pile them up by the side of the road or in the mill yard ready for the miller to convert them into timber or boards for use on the farms.

The first grist mill in the West Division was probably Brace's Mill located on the west side of Trout Brook at West Hartford Center, a short distance north of the Farmington Turnpike on or near the southeast corner of land now of Mary L. Whitman. A little further north there was a bridge across the brook and a road which is referred to in some of the old records as affording the first means of approach by teams to West Hartford Center, probably through what is now Fern Street. Capt. Childs Goodman for many years had a grist mill on the north bank of the Noyes River and the west side of Main Street near the former site of Stephen Hosmer's saw mill. Some of the charges found on the pages of one of his old account books reveal the fact that he had regular customers in different sections of West Hartford and in Hartford. When Mr. John C. Willian built his house a few years ago on land just north of the site of Capt. Goodman's mill, he found, in removing some soil near his house, one of Capt. Goodman's mill stones and made use of it as a doorstep.

At one period in its history, West Hartford was well supplied with cider mills. Some of these were connected with the dis-

tilleries. There were other mills of private ownership, located in different parts of the parish, to which farmers took their apples of the natural or ungrafted trees and the smaller apples of the grafted trees, to be ground and pressed for the production of cider.

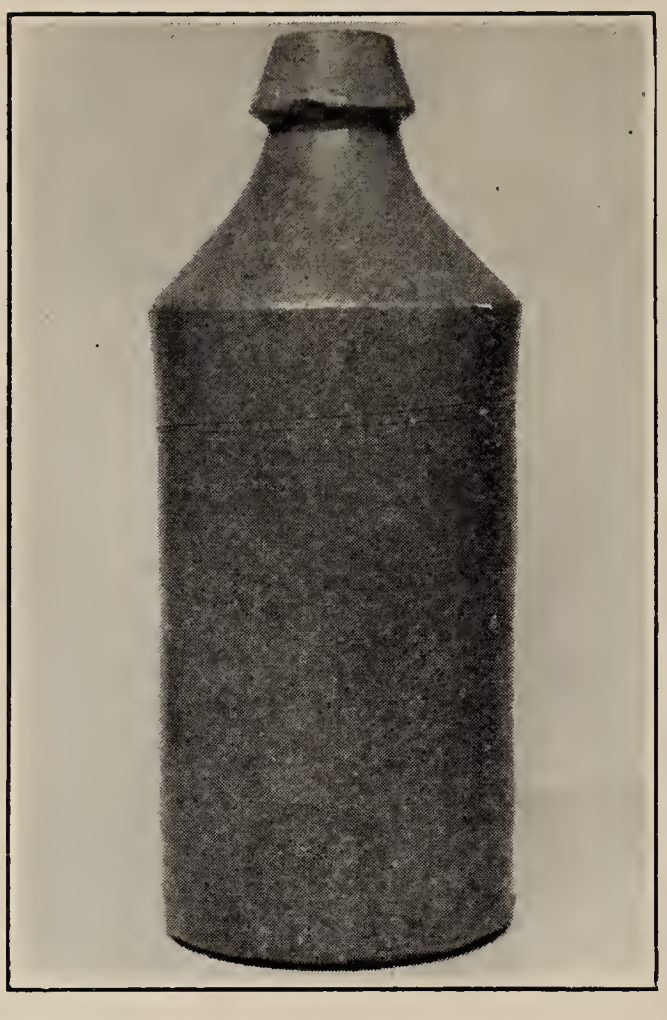
One of these mills was in the extreme northern part of the town on the west side of the main street just north of Still Road. Another was located on the same street just north of Capt. Childs Goodman's grist mill, and near the site of Stephen Hosmer's saw mill. This was the joint property of several farmers who lived in that neighborhood.

On the old road over Selden Hill, just west of the West District School house, was still another cider mill. Samuel Root, who made a business of bottling cider for private families, had a mill near his home on the north side of Albany Avenue, just west of Steele Lane.

The most popular cider mill in the community was located on the north side of Farmington Avenue, near the foot of the hill, just west of the corner of Quaker Lane, near the present corner of Auburn Road. This was the property of Benjamin Gilbert, and it was a very popular place in the season of the year when it was in operation, as many of the people driving by on their way to Hartford, or returning, stopped to get a drink of sweet cider "right from the press," for which the good natured proprietor made no charge.

An account of the occupations and business enterprises of West Hartford one hundred years ago would not be complete without mention of the distilleries. There were five of them, as appears from a grand list of taxable property. For some reason four of these were in the western part of the parish. One was west of Mountain Road near the Farmington Turnpike as originally laid out, at the point where the saw and grist mill was built and operated later by Stanley and Thompson. It is generally supposed that it was because of the location of the distillery there that the name Gin Still Hill was given to the hill on the present Farmington Avenue near by. Another was on Mountain Road, on the Solomon Porter farm, known in these later years as the Valentine farm. The third distillery was still farther north on Mountain Road, just north of its junction with the Talcott Mountain or Albany Turnpike and the fourth on the southeast corner of Mountain Road and Still Road, which took its name from the location of the distillery at that point. The fifth one was on the western side of Noyes River or Trout Brook, a little south of Bishop Road, on land which is now the eastern part of the property of George A. Kellogg.

During that period in the history of West Hartford when the cider mills and distilleries were in operation barrels of cider in the cellar were considered a necessary part of the winter store



STONE JUG FOUND IN RUINS OF AN OLD DISTILLERY

of provisions for the family — and cider, with fruit and nuts were essential features of hospitality extended to evening guests. The custom prevailed of offering to the minister at the time of his calls on the families of the parish a mug of flip, and I have seen the statement that the number of calls made by the minister in a day was sometimes determined by the number of mugs of flip which he could drink and still keep sober.

The School Committee going in a body to visit the schools in the northern part of the town were accustomed, in connection with their visits to call at one or more of the taverns for the purpose of quenching their thirst at the bar. The same conditions prevailed in other New England communities at that time.

There were blacksmith shops where the farmers had their horses shod and, in the winter, their oxen, their tools and chains mended, and in the summer the tires set on their wagons and carts. One of these owned by Levi Sedgwick, at the North End, is described in another chapter. His brothers Timothy and William Sedgwick had a shop on the South Middle Road just west of its junction with Main Street. At the Center were two shops at a later period, one near the grist mill connected with a wagon shop operated by Whiton and Richardson, and another on the south side of Farmington Turnpike on what is now known as Nichols Court, owned by Lemuel H. Nichols. For many years a private shop for the use of the proprietor of the farm who shod

his own horses and oxen and repaired his own tools was maintained on the Francis farm on the South Road to Farmington, now New Britain Avenue. It is still standing on the farm now owned by Mr. Ralph E. Gerth, who devotes it to other uses.

At the junction of the roads now known as Park Road and Tunxis Road, and nearer to Park Road, George D. Gates, Sen., had a two-story shop in which he made churns for the use of the farmers — mostly by hand, or without machinery. Churns made by him may still be found in the attics of some of the old houses, but no longer used in making butter.

There were shoemakers or "cobblers," who spent a large part of their time, except in summer, making boots and shoes for private customers, and repairing those that were worn and needed attention. The shoemaker's shop was a single room in the rear or ell part of his house, usually cluttered with lasts, pieces of leather, and an assortment of boots and shoes waiting to be repaired. Sometimes customers would wait in the shop while the shoemaker was making minor repairs on their boots or shoes, and while watching him draw his waxed ends, or drive his shoe pegs, would engage in conversation with him, discussing topics of local interest. And so the shoemaker became a sort of village oracle, gathering and disseminating the new and wise opinions on various topics as a result of this contact with different residents of the town.

In addition to these and a few other minor occupations there were in West Hartford and somewhat in connection with other neighboring towns persons who were engaged in what may properly be called itinerant occupations, those who were thus employed going from town to town and house to house in the pursuit of their occupations. In my boyhood days a man familiarly known as Tinker Warner, who lived alone in an old house on the southwest corner of Main Street and Fern Street used to go about on foot carrying his kit of tools and repairing pots, kettles, and tinware. Of course he became a very familiar figure and a well known resident, going from house to house and plying his trade as he found opportunity.

A tin peddler with his one-horse cart and load of tin ware, brooms, mops, clothes lines, and clothespins made regular journeys through the main street of the town, furnishing the housewives with such articles in his line as they might wish to purchase, accepting in payment, in part or for the whole amount, the rags, feathers, papers, bones, broken glass, etc., which they had preserved for him.

At one time a man drove through the principal roads of the town carrying in his wagon in a cask or can a quantity of liquid yeast which he sold in small quantities from house to house. He usually gave notice of his approach by ringing a bell. The women or some of the older children would come

out with a few pennies to purchase the weekly supply for bread making. One such peddler had formerly been a member of a brass band, and had retained his bugle, which he used instead of a bell in giving notice of his approach to the homes. I have a very distinct and pleasurable memory of his playing tunes on his bugle as his horse climbed the long hill near our home on the return trip to his home at night. Of course the peddlers, the tinker, and the tailoress, going from house to house, gathered and distributed the news, as did the shoemakers and also the men who gathered in the horsesheds on Sunday during the intermission between the morning and afternoon services; and so the people kept well informed on matters of local news without the aid of a daily newspaper.

A maiden lady skilled in making garments for men, women, and children, called "the tailoress," was accustomed to go to the homes of the people in response to their calls, for the purpose of making or repairing clothing. She took with her all needed utensils for the accomplishment of her purpose, including shears, pressboard, and goose or large flat-iron, often remaining in the home, if at all distant from her own home, until her task was accomplished. Quite often the garments for the younger boys would be made from parts of the cast off garments of the fathers, when portions of the cloth were in good condition. All the outer garments worn by the writer in his boyhood until he was sixteen years of age were made by the tailoress or by his mother in the home.

There were a few men who were especially skillful in husking corn, and who were proud of their ability to husk a large number of bushels in a day. Their services were sought by farmers in different communities who had large fields of corn, and so these huskers went from town to town during the autumn months. Two of these corn huskers who came to West Hartford for several years in succession were expert fiddlers, and often during their sojourn in the community they would spend their evenings in fiddling for the enjoyment of companies of people gathered in some home or on some barn floor, when the time, until a late hour, would be spent in music and dancing.

OLD HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC CONVEYANCE

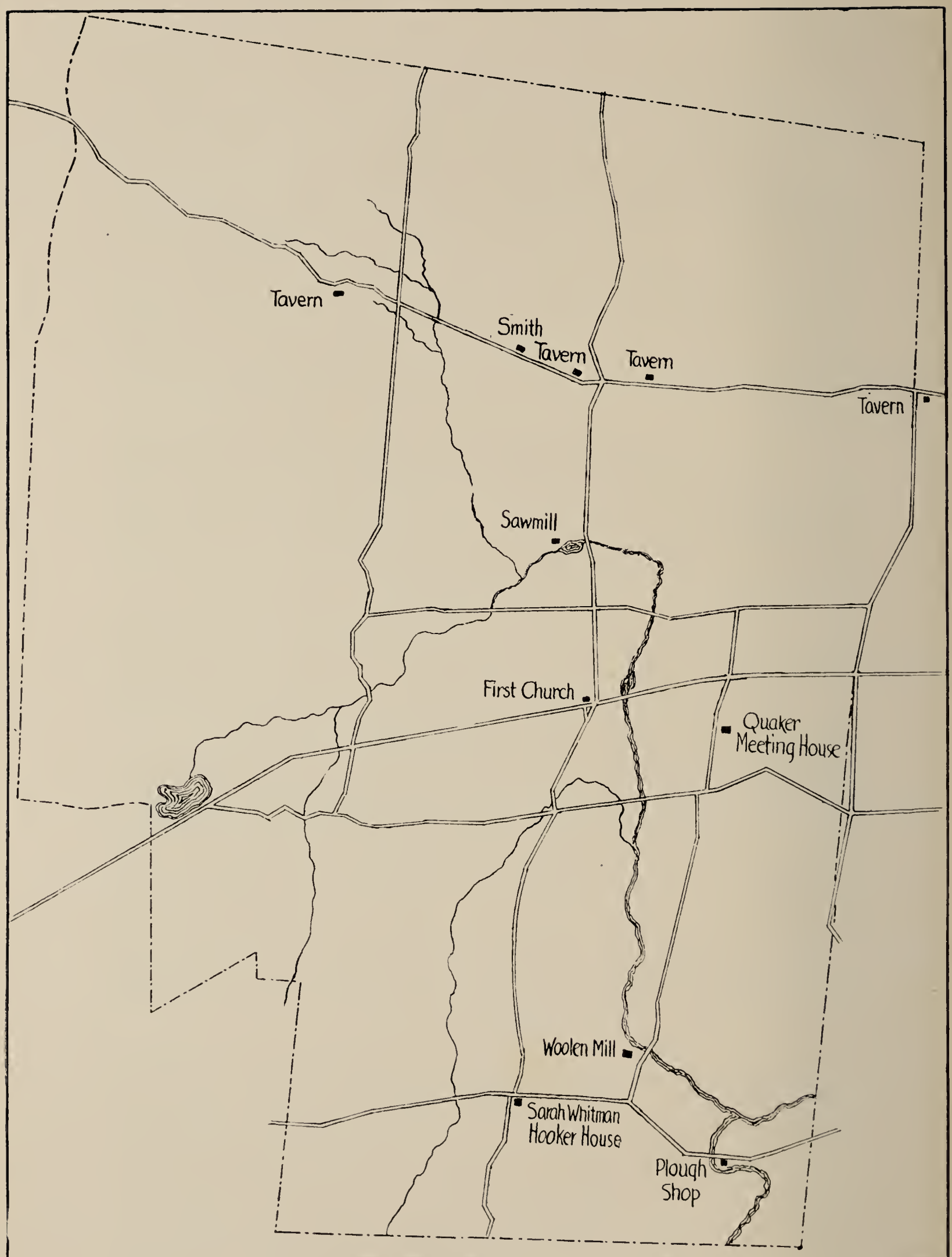
Old Highways — The ancient highways from Hartford to the West Division, and in the West Division, were at first crude pathways, somewhat circuitous and hilly, often blocked with snowdrifts in the winter, almost impassable in the spring on account of the deep, miry, clay mud, and disagreeably dusty in the summer. A Hartford citizen, writing some years ago concerning the early history of Hartford, stated that "one of the first embarrassments of the early settlers was the badness of the roads," and that the tenacious clay which underlies the rich loam of Hartford and vicinity was the most intractable material for road making."

There were originally three main thoroughfares from Hartford to and through the West Division, each eight rods wide. One of these was known as the South Road to Farmington. Starting out from the southern part of Hartford, it practically followed the present line of New Britain Avenue to Corbin's Corner and thence over to Farmington.

The second was called the South Middle Road to Farmington. From the South Green in Hartford, now Barnard Park, it ran along the line of the present Park Street and Park Road to Mountain Road, the western boundary of the West Division, thence over Selden Hill and in a northwesterly direction across where the western end of Reservoir Number One is now, on over the mountain into that part of Farmington which is now the southern part of the town of Avon. The western portion of that road has been known in the later years as the Mountain Spring Road. At the foot of the mountain there appears to have been a branch road which extended in a southeasterly direction into Farmington.

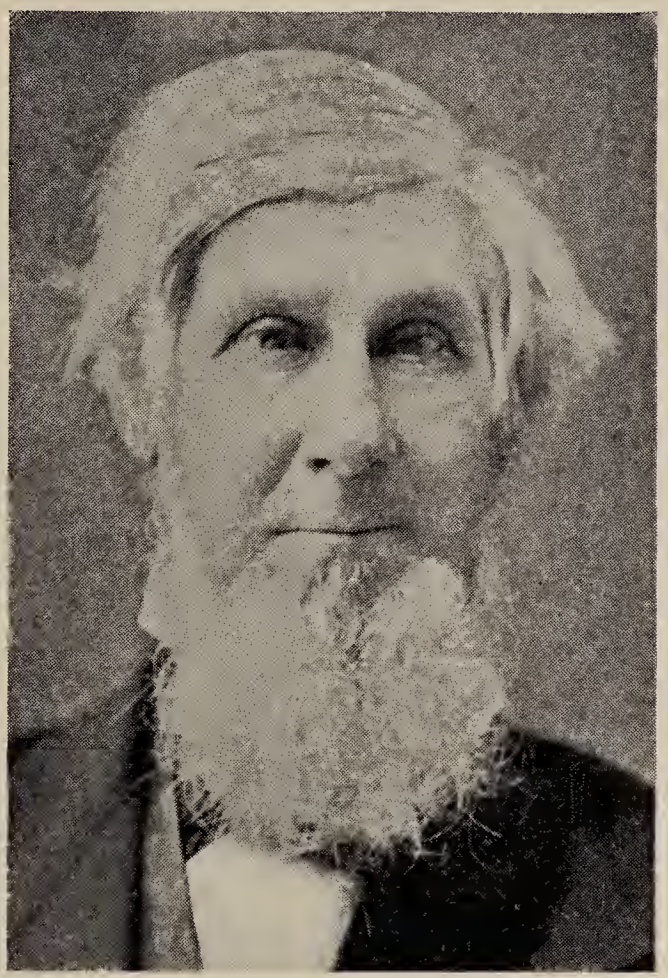
The third main thoroughfare was in the northern part of the West Division, extending from Hartford along the line of our present Albany Avenue to the main street and thence westerly on the line of our present Flagg Road.

In 1798 a corporation was formed called the Talcott Mountain Turnpike Company and the road built by this corporation became a part of the Talcott Mountain Turnpike which extended from Hartford to New Hartford. In New Hartford it connected with another turnpike known as the Greenwoods Turnpike, which extended from New Hartford to North Canaan. A connection was made there with still another turnpike extending to Albany. So these turnpikes afforded opportunity for a through stage route from Hartford to Albany, and the name Albany Turnpike came to be used in reference to this through route. At a later



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF OLD BUILDINGS.

date the turnpike west of the main street in the West Division was changed from the road now known as Flagg Road to its present position farther north.

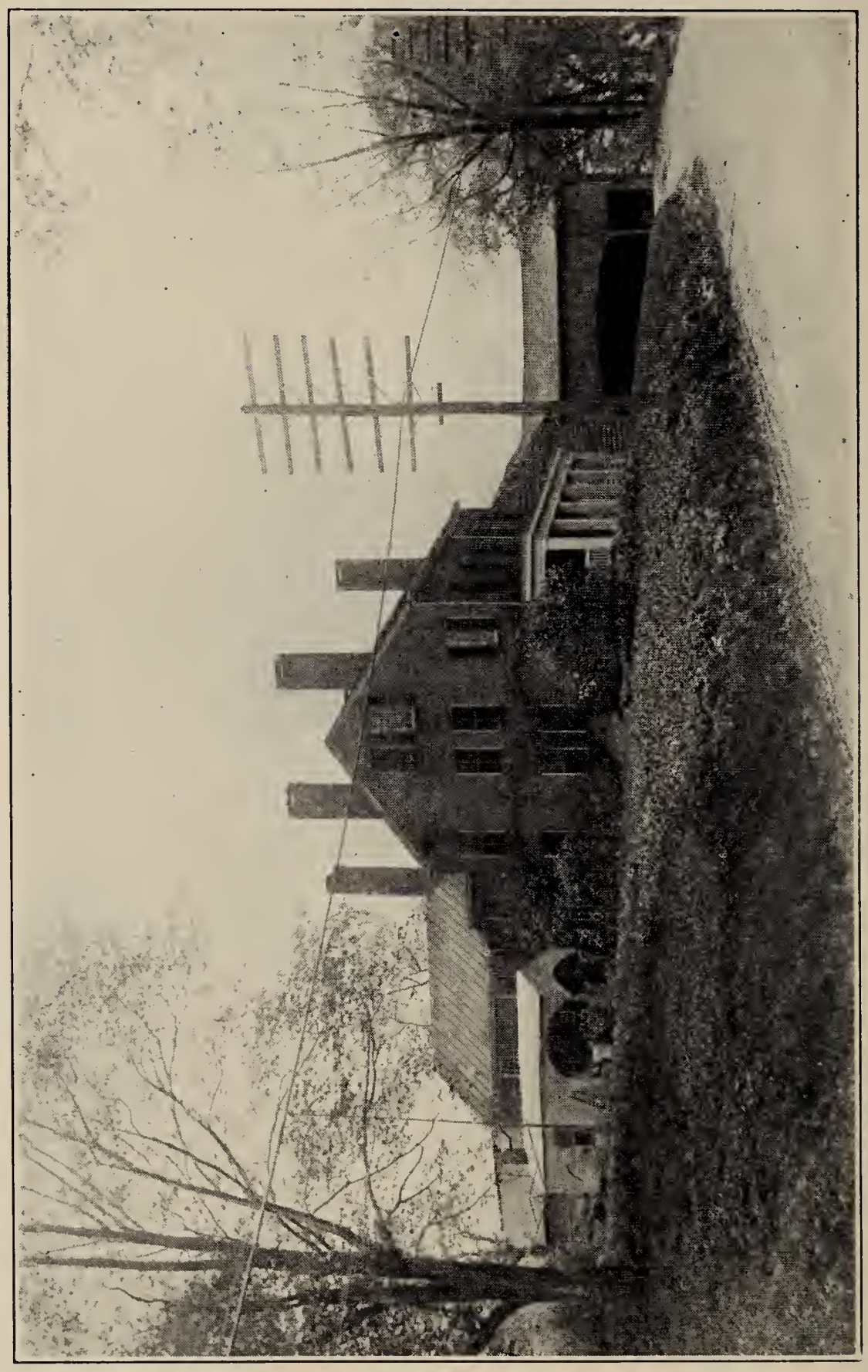


SIDNEY WADSWORTH.
WIDELY KNOWN AND POPULAR TAVERN-KEEPER FOR MANY YEARS. HE WAS ALSO A FARMER AND A BREEDER OF FINE HORSES, RECOGNIZED ON THE ROAD AS THE OWNER AND DRIVER OF A FINE SPAN OF HORSES.

On the boundary line between Hartford and Windsor, which is now Bloomfield, was a four-rod highway. This was abandoned many years ago, but traces of it may still be seen in the fields east of where our Main Street and the Simsbury Road meet, and in Hartford a portion of it is now open as a section of Tower Avenue.

The original approach to the central part of the West Division appears to have been by a road which crossed Noyes River, now Trout Brook, by a bridge located quite a distance north of the present bridge on Farmington Avenue. There was a mill pond there and a gristmill known as Brace's Mill. Some remains of the old mill dam and bridge are still to be seen at that point when the water is low in midsummer. On the western side of the river the roadway ran in a southerly direction for several rods, then, turning westward, it connected with the main street near the present location of the home of Henry C. Whitman. I have

never been able to ascertain the course of the road east of the river, whether it was connected with Quaker Lane or with Fern Street.



THE WADSWORTH TAVERN ON TALCOTT MOUNTAIN OR ALBANY TURNPIKE AT THE FOOT OF PROSPECT HILL. THE TAVERN WAS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE ROAD IN HARTFORD, BUT THE BARNS AND SHEDS WERE ON THE WEST HARTFORD SIDE.

In 1723 Aaron Cook, Nathaniel Stanley, and Robert Sanford were appointed to lay out a highway eight rods wide through the West Division from north to south. The proprietors of the sections or lots had built their homes near the central part of

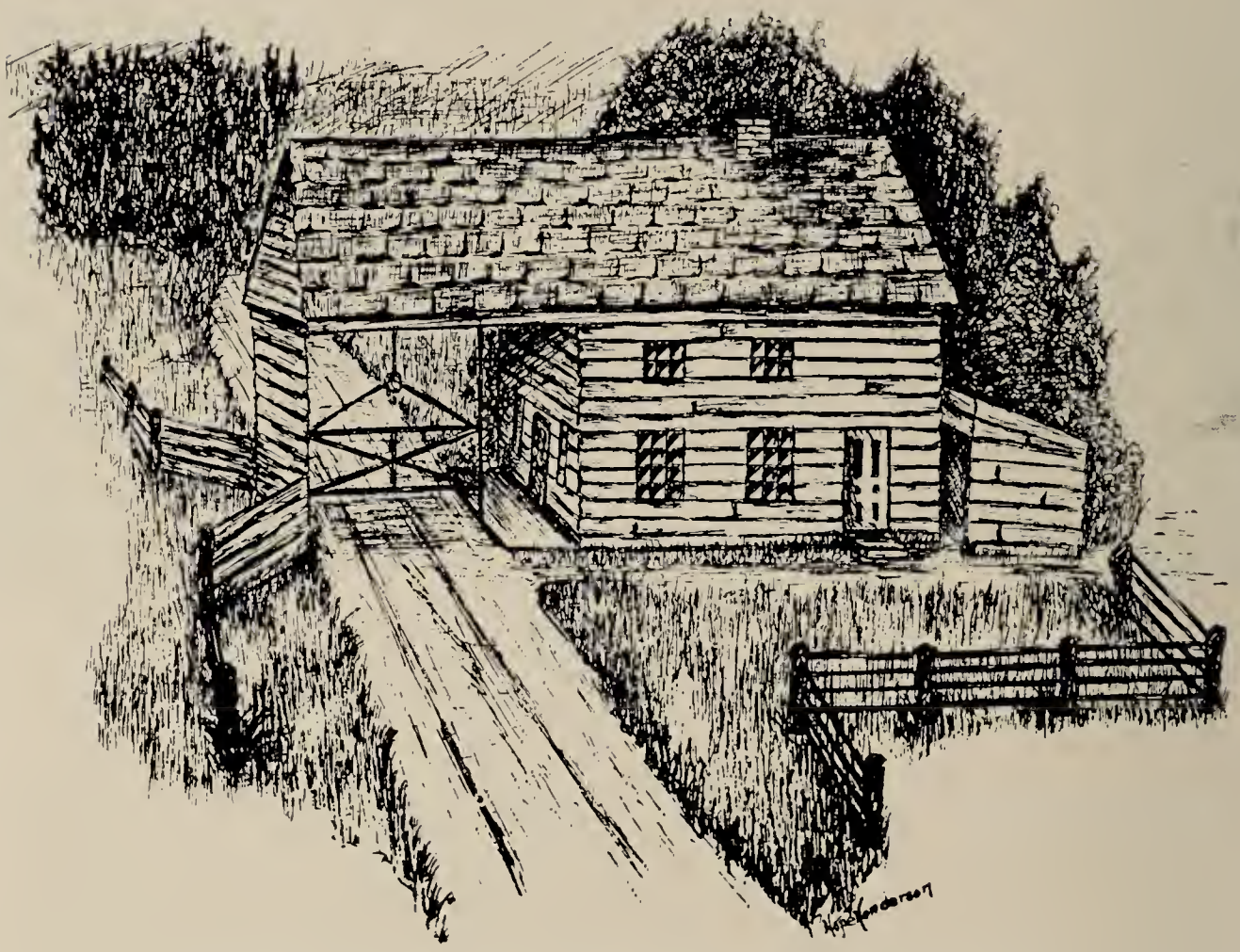
THE OLD TAVERN SIGN.
IT WAS SUSPENDED FROM THE CORNER OF A LONG SHED ON THE WEST SIDE OF PROSPECT HILL ROAD.

their lots on the most desirable sites without respect to a highway, and when this highway was opened each proprietor was allowed to direct as to the course to be followed in crossing his property. As a result the new highway, now West Hartford Main Street, had many curves and angles, some of which still remain. If this highway had been preserved in its original width of eight rods, West Hartford might now have a wide and beautiful boulevard extending through the central part of the town from north to south which would be a very attractive feature. And this statement may be applied with equal pertinence to the three ancient wide highways from Hartford to the West Division and westward. In these times of congested traffic wide boulevards such as those ancient highways provided opportunity for, would be of great public benefit.

In 1727 a road was opened to extend from the South Road to Farmington at Four Mile Hill to Wethersfield, now Newington. It was at first a "pent road," that is, a road with tollgate where all passengers had to pay toll, but in 1743 it was made a free road. It was the road which now extends from New Britain Avenue south to Newington Junction as an extension of West Hartford Main Street.

In 1737 a survey was made on the western boundary of the West Division for the establishment of a highway two rods wide

along the line of an existing roadway the boundaries of which had become somewhat uncertain because of encroachments by adjoining property owners. That road was called Mountain Street and is now our Mountain Road. The section south of Belden's Corner on Farmington Avenue was called West Street or West Lane.



THE OLD TOLL-GATE HOUSE ON ALBANY AVENUE. IT STOOD AT THE TOP OF THE HILL JUST WEST OF MOUNTAIN ROAD, NEAR PHELPS TAVERN. A SKETCH MADE FROM MEMORY OF JOHN M. FOOTE AS HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO PASS THROUGH IT ON HIS JOURNEYS FROM CANTON TO HARTFORD IN HIS BOYHOOD.

In 1796 a road was opened on the eastern border of the long tier of lots, extending from Capt. Ebenezer Faxon's past Benjamin Gilbert's to the Windsor line. That was the road which we now call Quaker Lane. Capt. Ebenezer Faxon lived in the house which is still standing on the northeast corner of New Britain Avenue and Quaker Lane, and Benjamin Gilbert lived in the house which has recently been moved from the northwest corner of Farmington Avenue and Quaker Lane to a position farther north. I have not been able to ascertain whether this road ever extended farther north than Bishop Road, now called Fern Street.

There is a possibility that what is now known as Steele Road may have been considered a continuation of Quaker Lane, although not directly connected with it. From the records it appears that when Samuel Griswold petitioned to have his farm set off from the Prospect Hill School District to the East School

District, the eastern boundary of the farm was given as Quaker Lane. Mr. Griswold's farm was north of Bishop Road, now Fern Street, and the eastern boundary was the road now known as Steele Road. It was originally a narrow lane with trees and bushes on each side whose branches brushed the sides of passing vehicles. Steele Road is now a fine street with beautiful residences on both sides of it.

OLD PHELPS TAVERN.

IT STOOD ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF ALBANY TURNPIKE, NEAR THE TOLL-GATE HOUSE. IT WAS OWNED BY MEMBERS OF THE PHELPS FAMILY — SAMUEL, ERASTUS, JULIUS — IN SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS; ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR STAGE COACH TAVERNS IN WEST HARTFORD. THE HOUSE WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN IT WAS THE PROPERTY OF THE WELLES FAMILY, WHO WERE ENGAGED IN THE MILK BUSINESS. THE HOUSE NOW STANDING ON THE SITE OF THE TAVERN IS THE PROPERTY OF WILLIAM G. WELLES OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA.

Oakwood Avenue was originally only a lane through the fields and woods from the South Middle Road to the Commons, affording the people who lived in that section opportunity to get to Hartford or West Hartford before Baker Road, now New Park Avenue, had been extended southward from the point of its connection with Prospect Avenue.

The western part of Bishop Road, now Fern Street, was opened in 1793. There is a record of a petition presented to the County Court by some of the people of Avon for a road westward from Mountain Road at the west of Bishop Road over the moun-

tain to a point on the road from Farmington Center to the Albany Turnpike, but no evidence has been found of the granting of the petition. A cart path or wood road from the west end of Fern Street through the fields and woods to the top of the mountain is still in existence, apparently along the line of the proposed road. West Hartford farmers and owners of wood lots on the mountain had a right of way to their wood lots along the line of this path, and those who still own wood lots on the mountain retain that right of way. There are traces of a path through the woods from the top of the mountain westward to the town of Avon.

In 1800, Farmington Turnpike was opened, extending from Hartford through the West Division to Farmington, where it connected with a turnpike extending westward through Burlington and Harwinton to Litchfield. It was sometimes called, on this account, the Litchfield Turnpike. From West Hartford Center west to Mountain Road it was laid out along the line of an old cart path which the farmers had used in going to their land in the western part of the parish. From Mountain Road it ran in a northwesterly direction around the northern slope of Gin Still Hill to its intersection on the western side of the hill with the South Middle Road to Farmington, which crossed over Selden Hill, and on in a northwesterly direction across where the west end of Reservoir Number One is now located, over the mountain into the northeastern part of Farmington.

In 1837 some of the people residing in Farmington petitioned the County Court for a shorter route to Hartford, complaining of the hilly and circuitous character of the existing road, which evidently was the South Middle Road. The Court appointed a committee to consider the matter and report. That committee held a number of meetings at Seymour's store and the Eagle Tavern in Hartford, at Simeon Arnold's house in West Hartford, and in Farmington. They listened to the testimony of the petitioners and the opposition of other people in Farmington and finally, in 1839, reported in favor of a new road, the same to be a branch of the South Middle Road extending from a point about half a mile west of West Hartford Main Street through land of Timothy and William Sedgwick, David Selden, and Leonard Braman, and connecting with the south road to Farmington at a point called Andrew's Corner. This road was what is now known as Tunxis Road. When the Trout Brook Ice Company built their reservoir or pond a few years ago, its location in that vicinity was changed for a short distance; otherwise it is as originally laid out.

The road in the western part of the town from New Britain Avenue northward across Tunxis Road to Park Road, which is called Ridgewood Road, was laid out in 1850. Its further extension from Park Road to Farmington Avenue is of recent date.

The "ancient highway" called Prospect Hill Road, now Prospect Avenue, originally extended from Albany Avenue to Farmington Avenue, but in 1851 it was extended southward along the line of an old lane to Park Street. In 1863, it was still further extended to its present juncture with New Park Avenue.

In 1852 the people residing in the Elmwood section desired a shorter and more direct road to Newington than was afforded by the road on the hill from the southern terminus of West Hartford Main Street to Newington. One reason was that the people doing business in that part of the town might avail themselves of the opportunities for the reception and sending out of freight at the railroad station at Newington Junction. In response to this desire, the road now known as Newington Road was opened in 1852, and it has become one of the principal residential streets in that part of the town.

The people who had built their homes in that section of the town which for many years was called the Commons, because it was a part of the original "Common" set apart in 1674, for the use of all the people, were desirous of better facilities of approach to their homes and of going from their homes to other localities. They therefore petitioned the town to open a street through that territory. After considerable delay, a street was opened from a point on East Street, now Quaker Lane, eastward to the town line, with the understanding that the town of Hartford would continue it from the town line to a connection with Zion Street in Hartford. This condition was complied with and the road now known as Flatbush Avenue was opened.

Most of the other roads and streets of West Hartford, at the present time, are of more recent origin. Many of the streets have been opened by parties interested in real estate developments, providing homes for the people who have been coming to the town to reside in these later years. The names given to these new streets have been selected by the real estate promoters, according to their fancies or tastes. Many streets, however, bear the names of former owners of the property, or of residents of the town, such as: Arnold, Belden, Bishop, Brace, Burr, Cadwell, Caya, Crosby, Ellsworth, Flagg, Griswold, Hamilton, Keney, LeMay, Price, Seymour, Selden, Stanley, Staples, Talcott, Thomson, Whiting, Whitman.

The maintenance of the public roads in early days was a very simple and inexpensive matter. Here and there a few shovelfuls of dirt thrown upon the road in places where holes or depressions appeared and a few furrows plowed on each side of the road and the dirt thus loosened scraped to the middle of the road, constituted the chief repairs. For more extensive repairs, gravel from the pits or deposits on Farmington Turnpike in the present locality of Concord Street, or from the Prospect Hill Road at Asylum Avenue, was carted to different parts of the

town and spread upon the roads. It was the custom, for some years, for residents in different sections of the town to have the general oversight of the roads in their respective sections and property owners sometimes had the privileges of paying their highway taxes by labor upon the roads.

At the first town meeting in West Hartford, in 1854, a committee of eight persons, one from each school district, was appointed to consider, and report at a subsequent meeting, the best plan for caring for the roads. That committee reported in favor of the annual election of eight Highway Surveyors, one from each school district, who should have general oversight of all the roads and provide for all necessary repairs of the same. This plan was adopted. The first persons elected to the position of Highway Surveyors were Chester Griswold from the Center District, George Giddings from the East District, Thomas O. Goodwin from the South District, Thomas M. Belden from the Southeast District, Milton Braman from the West District, Morgan Goodwin from the Northwest District, Levi Sedgwick from the North District, and Edmund Dart from the Prospect Hill District.

A special highway tax was levied annually to provide funds for meeting the expense of repairs. In 1856 the rate of the tax for this was two cents on the dollar, as appears from a tax bill for that year of Elihu Barber, a well to do farmer residing in the northern part of the town.

The plan of electing eight Highway Surveyors, each representing and being responsible for a district or section of the town, apparently did not prove to be wholly satisfactory, for in 1856 the people voted in an annual town meeting to adopt the plan of electing three Highway Surveyors to have charge of all the highways in the town. That plan or method was continued for several years, but finally the care of roads was made one of the duties and responsibilities of the selectmen.

In 1889, largely through the influence and advocacy of Mr. Adolph C. Sternberg, the attention of the citizens of the town was directed to the Good Roads Movement, or a plan for the substantial and marked improvement of highways by macadamizing. A committee was appointed to take the matter under consideration, make thorough investigation, and report at a town meeting to be held later. That committee consisted of the three selectmen, E. T. Stanley, Wilbur E. Goodwin, and C. Edward Beach, and two additional members, Frederick C. Rockwell and De-Forest H. Peck.

The committee reported at a town meeting held in 1890 in favor of adopting a plan for grading and macadamizing the principal roads of the town as follows: Albany Avenue from Mountain Road east to the town line; Farmington Avenue from Mountain Road to West Hartford Center; Park Street from Thomson Corner east to the town line; New Britain Avenue from Corbin's

Corner to town line; one thousand feet of East Street, now Quaker Lane, from Park Street south; Prospect Avenue from Park Street to a point near the residence of F. C. Rockwell; Quaker Lane from Park Street to Farmington Avenue. They reported that it was estimated that seventy-five percent of the people of the entire town had their homes on these roads or near them. The cost of the work, they stated, would be $50,000. Their report was acceptable to the voters, and it was decided to enter the improvement of the roads as suggested and to issue bonds for borrowing $50,000 for covering the expense.

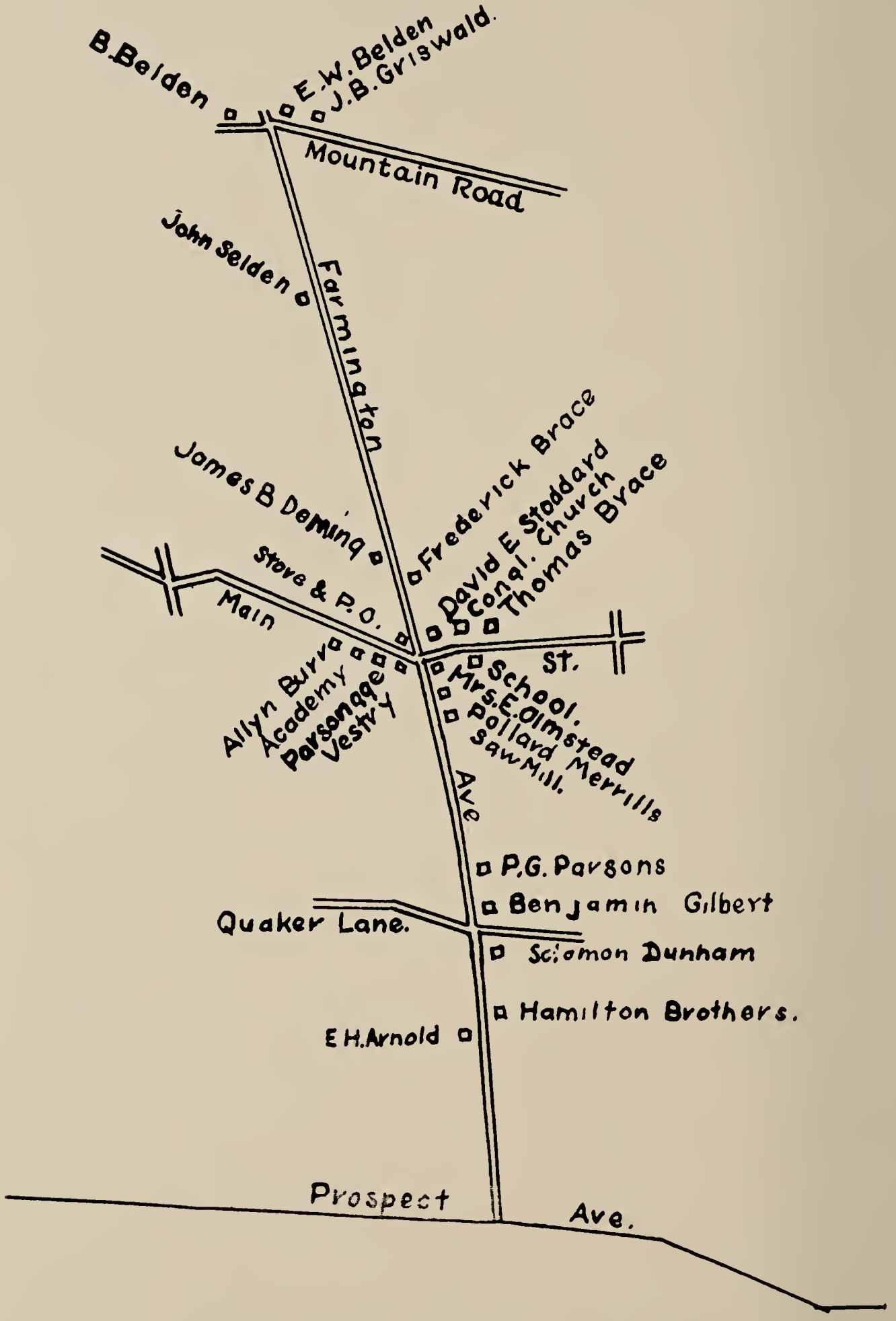
This work was successfully carried forward. The foundation for the macadam consisted of stone furnished by the farmers and other property owners of the town, who in this way found a market for the material in many of the stone walls and in the cobblestones found in the fields. The hills on New Britain Avenue, Park Road, Farmington Avenue, Albany avenue, and West Hartford Main Street were lowered, and these roads brought to a better grade. This improvement in the roads was later extended to other parts of the town.

Farmington Avenue in Days of Old — Farmington Turnpike, now known as Farmington Avenue, has changed greatly since days of old. It was originally quite a hilly road. Hamilton Hill, later known as Vanderbilt Hill and now called West Hill, was at its highest point, eight or ten feet higher than it is at present, and the road east of the hill to Prospect Avenue and west to Quaker Lane has been raised to a higher level. At the Center, the hill on both sides of the bridge across Trout Brook has been lowered two or three times. The old Vestry on the southeast corner of Main Street and the Turnpike was on quite a high bank above the road. This is true also of the Elihu Olmsted house on the opposite corner on the north side of the turnpike. After the hill had been lowered, the north end of Goodman Park was three or four feet higher than the road.

West of the Center, between LaSalle Road and Walden Street, the short hill was much higher than now. The carriage drives from the residences on either side were practically on a level with the street. In like manner the hills farther west, at the point where Staples Place and Cadwell Street are now, were several feet higher than at present.

Across the brook just west of Belden's Corner, now Foote's Corner, was a crude wooden bridge with a railing on each side. The bridge across Noyes River just east of the Center was of the same general character. By the side of each of these bridges there was a pathway leading down to the brook, where the drivers of passing teams might drive through the stream and give their horses or cattle an opportunity to drink.

From Prospect Hill Road to Quaker Lane there was on each side of the road an almost continuous row of fine tall trees. A few of these still remain on the north side of Farmington Avenue



RESIDENCES ON FARMINGTON AVENUE IN 1854.

east of Hamilton Avenue. Most of those west of the hill were cut down many years ago by order of the selectmen of the town because they hindered the melting of the snow and ice in the spring and kept the road in a muddy condition for a long time. From this it appears that town officials in former years, as in some cases at the present time, had slight regard for trees as of advantage in an ornamental way for improving the general appearance of the town.

The accompanying chart shows the location of the dwelling houses which were on Farmington Avenue when West Hartford was set off as a town in 1854. All but five of them were farmhouses. P. G. Parsons, whose house was located where Troop B Armory is now, was a painter and had only a small house lot. Pollard Merrills, who lived where the Trout Brook Ice Co. plant is now, was the owner of the saw mill. He too had only a little land. The corner house farther west was occupied by Mrs. Olmsted, widow of Elihu Olmsted, formerly postmaster. David E. Stoddard, who lived in the old tavern just east of where the Baptist Church is now located, was a carpenter, and Frederick Brace, whose home was at the present corner of Farmington Avenue and Dale Street, was the proprietor and driver of the first omnibus line to Hartford.

Only six of these old Farmington Turnpike houses now remain, and they have changed in respect to conditions and appearance greatly. In all but two instances they have changed in location also. The Hamilton house is now the residence of Frederick W. Arnold. The Benjamin Gilbert house is now north of the brick apartment house on the corner of Quaker Lane and Farmington Avenue. The Pollard Merrills house is a gasoline filling station. The Elihu Olmsted house, which stood on the northeast corner of the street where the Bank is, is now just north of the Bank. The David Stoddard house is farther west at Nos. 980-982 Farmington Ave.; the Frederick Brace house is now on Whitman Avenue; the James B. Deming house is now a double house on the south side of Farmington Avenue, just west of Four Mile Road. The Edwin W. Belden house at the corner of Mountain Road is now, in an enlarged and improved condition, the residence of John M. Foote.

On the south side of Farmington Avenue from the Statehouse in Hartford through West Hartford and Farmington and on toward Litchfield, there were stone mile-posts, marking the distance. Three of these were in West Hartford: one marking the third mile from the Statehouse, just west of Quaker Lane; another marking the fourth mile from the Statehouse, at the corner of Four Mile Road, which takes its name from the fact that the mile-stone is still located there; the third west of Mountain Road near the junction of Albany place with that road.

The Boulevard — One of the most noteworthy projects for the development of streets and building lots in West Hartford was inaugurated in 1895 by Frederick C. Rockwell, a prominent citizen of the town. He purchased a large tract between Farmington Avenue and Park Road, and extending from Mountain Road eastward to Prospect Avenue. At that time, Mr. Rockwell was one of the promoters of a new trolley line from Hartford to Unionville, and he conceived the idea of having it pass through the land which he had purchased. He planned a broad boulevard with a park in the center and driveways on each side, the trolley line to pass through the center of the boulevard. He had rows of trees planted on both sides and induced the Hartford Board of Water Commissioners, who were planning to lay a new water main from Reservoir No. One to Hartford, to lay their pipes along the line of the boulevard. Poles were set for the trolley wires a part of the way, and a bridge was built across Trout Brook, east of Raymond Road. That section of the boulevard from South Main Street to Raymond Road was developed according to Mr. Rockwell's original plan.

But the Hartford Street Railway Company made such strong opposition to the entrance to Hartford of the Unionville trolley line by that route that Mr. Rockwell had to abandon that part of his plan. Furthermore, he lacked sufficient capital for making further developments, although he did succeed in opening three streets adjacent to the boulevard, naming them for his three daughters Jessamine, Vera, and Doris. Mr. Rockwell undoubtedly had a vision of a larger development at a later period which would have included marked public improvements in that section of the town south of the boulevard. He lacked not only the requisite capital but the encouragement and cooperation of his fellow citizens, who did not have a real conception of his idea. In his estimation the development of the community with chief concern for its beauty and attractiveness as a residential suburb of Hartford was of vastly greater importance than the profits which might be acquired from sales of real estate.

Public Conveyance From West Hartford to Hartford. There was really no need of any public conveyance from West Hartford to Hartford during the early history of the community. The people had no occasion to go to Hartford oftener than once a week, and most of them kept horses, and so had conveyances of their own. The few people who did not keep horses could readily obtain opportunities to ride with neighbors or friends. Doubtless people who lived in the northern part of the town were accommodated to some extent by the stage coaches which passed through on the Talcott Mountain Turnpike after it was opened about the year 1800, and which stopped en route at the local taverns.

Possibly after the Farmington Turnpike was opened, and a stage coach route established between Farmington and Hartford, through West Hartford Center, some West Hartford people may have been accommodated in going to Hartford by that means. But in those days it was not considered a difficult undertaking for people to walk from one town to another, and a walk to Hartford and back again may not have been an unusual experience for some of the people. Within the memory of the writer, some of the young people of West Hartford were accustomed to walk to Hartford and back daily, for employment in the stores or shops, or attendance at the Hartford High School.

About the year 1850 Mr. Frederick Brace, a teamster, who lived on the Farmington Turnpike at the point which is now the corner of Dale Street, conceived the idea of establishing an omnibus route between West Hartford and Hartford. He procured a very plain looking vehicle resembling in shape an ice wagon but with windows on both sides, a driver's seat in front under an extension of the roof of the vehicle, and a door for entrance in the rear approached by pendent steps. Mr. Brace left West Hartford Center at 9 o'clock in the morning of each week day, making only one daily trip to the city, and on his return reached West Hartford Center at four o'clock in the afternoon. While in the city he made a trip each day from Main Street to Lord's Hill at noon, conveying some of the prominent professional and business men of the city from their offices or places of business to their homes waiting for them to partake of their dinners, then conveying them back again to the central part of the city.

This business was continued by Mr. Brace until his death, when his son, Walter L. Brace, conducted the route for a short time until the business was sold to another party. Among those citizens of West Hartford who in later years became proprietors of the omnibus line were Myron W. Luddington, B. Franklin Bissell, William H. Seymour, Edward L. Mix, and George H. Millard in partnership with C. W. Symonds.

Very soon after Walter Brace transferred the business to another party the plan was introduced of making two trips each day, the omnibus leaving West Hartford Center at 9 o'clock A. M., reaching the Center on return about half past eleven o'clock, leaving again for Hartford at one o'clock, and reaching West Hartford Center on return at 4 o'clock.

Mr. Seymour, who lived on New Britain Avenue about half way between the south end of West Hartford Main Street and the south end of East Street now South Quaker Lane, produced quite a sensation when he purchased in New York one of those omnibuses with ornamental body and the driver's seat high up on the top. He was able to make the long trip from his home to West Hartford Center and to the city and back again twice a day because he was also at that time engaged in the business of

buying and selling horses and could therefore make frequent change of horses for the trips. The driver during Mr. Seymour's proprietorship of the line was Joseph Lowry, who was quite popular with the patrons of the route.

At a later period an omnibus of a still different type was introduced. The accompanying picture of that more modern omnibus is from a photograph taken on an occasion when it had been secured by the West Hartford Glee Club for a serenading trip to various homes in different parts of the town.

WEST HARTFORD AND HARTFORD
GLEE CLUB GOING OUT FOR SERENADE

The omnibus line was continued in operation until 1889. During the latter part of the time the driver made two trips each day, bringing the mail from Hartford to West Hartford in the morning and also in the afternoon.

Some of the public spirited citizens of West Hartford became greatly interested in a proposition for the extension of the horse car line which was in operation on Farmington Avenue in 1889 as far west as Prospect Avenue, where there was a terminus and a turntable. They interviewed the proprietors of that line with respect to the matter of such an extension and as a result of their efforts an agreement was made on February 13, 1889, by which the Hartford and Wethersfield Horse Railway Company agreed to extend the line to West Hartford Center, and equip and operate it on or before November first of that year, if the Town would grant them the right of way for the line and its turnouts, and the citizens of the town would furnish, free of cost to the company, field and cobble stone sufficient in quantity

and quality for the proper construction of the roadbed, and also pay to the company the sum of one thousand dollars. This agreement was signed in behalf of the Railway Company by its President, E. S. Goodrich, and in behalf of the West Hartford citizens by Adolph C. Sternberg, Francis G. Butler, J. G. Lane, and E. T. Stanley. The line was ready for use and operation on September 29, 1889. The event was publicly celebrated a week later in an enthusiastic manner by an assembly of citizens and friends at the Center, a parade with a band of music, and congratulatory speeches by prominent citizens of West Hartford and Hartford.

FIRST HORSE CAR TO WEST HARTFORD

The cars made hourly trips between Hartford and West Hartford at first. In the colder weather the horses were detached from the car at the West Hartford end of the line and driven under the horse sheds in the rear of St. James Church for protection until the time arrived for the return trip. More frequent trips were made at a later date, and the cars returned to Hartford very soon after their arrival at the West Hartford end of the line. The fare each way at first was ten cents.

In 1894 the electric or trolley car service was introduced. The number of daily trips was increased, the service extended into the later hours of the night, and the trolley line from Unionville through West Hartford to Hartford was opened that year.

A Railroad Proposed Through West Hartford. About sixty years ago, when the project for building a railroad to extend

from Hartford westward through the northern part of Litchfield County to New York State was under consideration, some of the friends of the enterprise, including prominent citizens of Farmington, were very desirous that the town of West Hartford and its citizens should subscribe for shares of stock in the Company. Two routes were under consideration. One of these was to pass through the central part of West Hartford to Farmington and on westward. The other was to pass through Bloomfield, Simsbury, and thence westward. The final decision as to the choice between these routes was to be determined largely by the interest manifested by the citizens of the different towns in subscribing for shares of stock.

In response to the solicitations and efforts of those in favor of the route through Farmington, several public meetings were held in West Hartford, and enthusiastic appeals were made to the citizens to cooperate in the effort to secure the adoption of that route. Some of the prominent citizens became very much interested in the matter, and were active in their efforts. Circulars were printed and widely distributed which pointed out the great advantages of having a railroad pass through the town, with a station located on its main street. Some of these circulars were illustrated with fine pictures of large business blocks and manufacturing establishments with tall smokestacks, such as might be expected as a result of the development of the town with such railroad facilities. Two different routes were proposed. One of these was to cross North Main Street just north of the present residence of Edward Hatheway and extend to Mountain Road, crossing it just north of the present residence of Roger Blakeslee and continuing through the gap in the mountain range where Farmington Avenue passes through to Farmington. The other route was located farther south, crossing South Main Street at about the point where the Boulevard is now, and extending in a westerly direction to Mountain Road and on to Farmington through the same gap in the mountain.

When later the projectors of the road found that they could obtain more financial support by adopting the route through Bloomfield and Simsbury, the southern route was abandoned and the hopes of those people in West Hartford and Farmington who had labored for its adoption were dispelled and West Hartford was left to become, in larger measure than before, a residential community rather than a manufacturing town.

OLD HOMESTEADS

DEACON HEZEKIAH SELDEN HOUSE

The old Selden house was for many years the home of Deacon Hezekiah Selden, a highly esteemed and loyal citizen of West Hartford, and the birthplace of a large family of children. Selden Hill, designated in some of the old records as Great Hill, is one of the highest elevations of occupied land in West Hartford, and commands a very fine expansive view of the land stretching away eastward, northward, and southward. It is called Selden Hill for the reason that families of that name have had large possessions of land and their homes there for several generations. Joseph Selden, the first of that name to locate in this locality, came from the old Selden homestead in East Haddam about 1793. His first home was east of the hill in the vicinity of the present West Schoolhouse, but a little later the family removed to the top of the hill. At one time the Seldens owned not only all the land which is embraced in the present large farm of Henry H. Selden, but also that tract between the old road and Farmington Avenue which in these later years has been known as Buena Vista. In the earlier years it was counted as a wooded hill pasture.

MARK GRIDLEY HOUSE

The old Gridley home on Selden Hill was owned and occupied by members of the Gridley family for at least three generations. The house with the farm of one hundred acres on which it was located was purchased in 1864 by Lorenzo Goodman Flagg, who maintained in connection with the farm a milk route in Hartford. The house represented here was burned in 1879, but a new home was speedily erected on the same site through the co-operation and assistance of many friends.

Mr. Flagg died in 1874, leaving the care of the farm and the bringing up of four young boys to his widow, Mrs. Augusta Selden Flagg. This was indeed a formidable undertaking, but Mrs. Flagg in a spirit of remarkable courage and devotion was equal to the task and was greatly admired by all who knew her for the spirit and accomplishments which characterized her life.

The picture which appears here was taken on the occasion of a family party. The persons represented are as follows: Back row: sitting, Henry H. Selden, his father Edward Selden; standing, Mrs. Edward Selden; sitting, Mrs. Augusta Selden Flagg; standing, Mrs. Edward M. Selden; sitting, Edward M. Selden, son of Edward Selden. Front row: sitting on the ground, George Edward Flagg, William Lorenzo Flagg, Charles Everitt Flagg; standing, Franklin Selden Flagg, also Stephen Allyn Selden, Julia Selden, children of Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Selden.

The later lives and accomplishments of these children give evidence of very gratifying results as fruitage of the care and devotion of their beloved mother. George Edward Flagg left the farm in 1886 to become identified with the Williams & Carleton Co. of Hartford and he has travelled for that firm continuously for the past forty-one years. He resides at 41 North Main Street, West Hartford. Franklin Selden Flagg has followed banking, being formerly connected with the old Charter Oak National and for the past eight years has been assistant cashier of the Phoenix State Bank & Trust Co. His family residence is at 34 Keney Terrace, Hartford. William Lorenzo Flagg began his business career as bookkeeper for the Trout Brook Ice and Feed Co., later going to the Meriden Republican in a like capacity. In 1893 he moved to Pittsburgh, Penn., where he successfully engaged in the manufacturing business until his death in 1912. Charles Everett Flagg was graduated from the West Hartford High School in 1891 and followed newspaper and publicity work in Hartford, North Adams, Baltimore, and Spokane. He now resides at Los Gatos, California. Stephen Allyn Selden has been identified with the Savings Bank in Norfolk, Conn., for nearly his entire business life and is now a resident and prominent citizen of that town. Julia Selden is now the wife of Thomas J. Kelly, and their home is on Selden Hill near the former site of the Gridley House.

THE STANLEY HOUSE

The Stanley house, which stood on the north side of the old road over Selden Hill just west of its junction with Mountain Road, and west of the West School, was one of the oldest houses in West Hartford seventy years ago.

The Selden family first located in this locality before establishing their home on Selden Hill. Possibly this was for a time a Selden homestead. Later it became the property of Truman Stanley, father of Edward Stanley, and was for many years a Stanley homestead.

THE SEDGWICK HOUSE

The Sedgwick House on the northwest corner of South Main Street and Park Road was for many years the home of Timothy Sedgwick, a descendant of Samuel Sedgwick, one of the first settlers of West Hartford. Mr. Sedgwick and his brother William Sedgwick had a blacksmith shop on the north side of the South Middle Road, just west of the bridge.

The Kelsey House, located on the north side of Albany Avenue just east of Mountain Road, was one of the fine old family residences of former generations. It is now unoccupied and is the property of Charles S. Root.

The home for many years of Dr. Edward Brace, located on the south side of Park Road just west of West Hartford Main Street, is the present residence of Dr. Brace's great grandson, Major Clarence C. Scarborough. This is one of the fine old resi-

THE KELSEY HOUSE

HOME OF DR. EDWARD BRACE

dences of the town. It is located on a section of land purchased in 1694 by Samuel Sedgwick, one of the most prominent early settlers of the West Division. In its original form and condition it may have been his home. It later became the property of Benjamin Colton and still later of Mary Colton, who became the wife of Dr. Edward Brace.

THE GRISWOLD HOUSE

The Griswold home, North Main Street, was the residence of Ozias S. Griswold, later of his son Allen S. Griswold and family, and the childhood home of Samuel A. Griswold, Charles S. Griswold, Henry O. Griswold, Seth P. Griswold, prominent citizens of the town, and of Mary Jane Griswold (Mrs. J. G. Shepard), donor of the site for Noah Webster Library, later sold for $4,000 to apply on the present library building.

This fine old residence, in connection with a large farm located on Mountain Road just south of the junction of that road with Flagg Road, was the home of the descendants of Morgan Goodwin for five generations in succession. It is now the property of Seymour N. Robinson of Hartford.

The old Whiting house, located on the west side of North Main Street on the hill south of Albany Avenue, was built on one of the largest sections of land laid out in 1674, and assigned to the Haynes family. It was occupied at first by the Haynes family. Samuel Whiting married one of the daughters of the

THE GOODWIN HOMESTEAD

THE WHITING HOUSE

family and this became his home and after his death the home of his son and daughter, Austin and Cornelia Whiting. It is now the property and residence of Joseph H. Lawler, a former mayor of Hartford, who owns in connection with it a large portion of the original Haynes lot.

THE PHILIP CORBIN HOMESTEAD

Philip Corbin came from Union to West Hartford in 1833 with a family of seven children and purchased the property on the southwest corner of the south road to Farmington, now New Britain Avenue, and the road to New Britain. Three sons were born in the house in which he lived. The house is still standing. This was the boyhood home of his sons Philip and Frank, the founders of the widely known and prosperous P. and F. Corbin Hardware Company of New Britain. The homestead is still in the possession of the Corbin family.

This ancient home, located at the northeastern corner of New Britain Avenue and South Quaker Lane, was built by Ebenezer Faxon in 1777 and occupied by him and his family until 1828, when it was sold to Seth Talcott and occupied by him and his family for many years. It is now the property of Frederick W. Talcott of New York, who has taken much pride in preserving it in its original form, and has recently built around it a picket fence of the same pattern as the one which enclosed the premises

in earlier times. This house is now occupied by two families. Miss Julia L. Faxon, great grand-daughter of Ebenezer Faxon Senior, now lives in the eastern part of the house, quite near to her birthplace.

THE CAPT. EBENEZER FAXON HOUSE

The old Whitman homestead on North Main Street, which stood on the east side of the road and quite near to it, just south of the present residence of Mr. George A. Kellogg, was the childhood home of Dr. Henry L. Whitman of Des Moines, Iowa, George A. Whitman of Winona, Miss., Eliza Whitman Smith of Hartford, Conn., Charlotte Whitman Flagg of Yonkers, N. Y., Samuel Whitman of West Hartford, Emeline Whitman Morris of West Hartford, John Whitman of West Hartford, Joseph H. Whitman of San Francisco, Calif. The present Whitman homestead, No. 98 North Main Street, is the residence of the Misses May L., Kate E., and Helen H. Whitman. This house was built in 1839 by Samuel Whitman, 2nd, the grandfather of the present owners, the Misses Whitman, and of their brother Henry C. Whitman, retired Town Clerk.

The James Whitman House on North Main Street north of the Trout Brook as it appeared when owned and occupied by James Whitman and his sisters before it was sold to Frederick E. Duffy.

THE OLD WHITMAN HOMESTEAD

THE PRESENT WHITMAN HOMESTEAD

JOEL STEELE HOMESTEAD

CHILDS GOODMAN HOMESTEAD

BENJAMIN BELDEN HOMESTEAD

Joel Steele house. This was one of the fine old houses of the town. It stood at the west end of Fern Street. In more recent years it was moved back from the street and made over. In its earlier days it was known as the Joel Steele mansion.

Childs Goodman house. The little pond lying west of North Main Street, where ice is now cut was formerly a mill pond. The Goodman house was near by. Here Childs Goodman, the town miller, lived all his long life, and the house was a Goodman homestead before his day.

Benjamin Belden homestead. The Belden house, now owned by Everett J. Stanley, is on Mountain Road south of Farmington Avenue. Mr. Belden was a prominent citizen at the time when the town was set off from Hartford in 1854 and took an active part in the separation movement.

CHURCHES

First Church of Christ. In the chapter which tells of the beginnings of the corporate existence of West Hartford as an Ecclesiastical society is an account of the organization in 1713 of the first church in the community, known as the Fourth Church of Christ in Hartford. That church has continued through all the succeeding years, and is now known as the First Church of Christ in West Hartford. The first church building, erected in 1712, was a very plain structure and comparatively small. As the population increased, a larger building was needed for the accommodation of the people, and the second church was built in 1742 on a site near that of the first church, on land donated for the purpose by Timothy Goodman, who owned a large farm in that locality. In 1742 the people voted to lay a tax of one shilling on a pound for the purpose of building that church, and the next year, 1743, they voted a tax of two shillings six pence on a pound for the same purpose. Again in 1744, they voted a tax of four pence on a pound "to enable the committee to go forward and complete the meeting house." This second meeting house was used until 1834.

On the ninth of January, 1834, the Society voted that it was expedient to take measures for the erection of a new house of worship. A committee was appointed to consider what measures should be adopted, and to present plans and estimates of expense. The committee consisted of James Butler, Seth Talcott, Augustus Flagg, Joseph E. Cone, Solomon S. Flagg, Thomas Brace, Albigence Scarborough, Hezekiah Selden, Nathan Seymour, Ralph Wells, Morgan Goodwin, Jr., and Theron Deming. At a meeting held January twenty-seventh, they reported that they had visited and inspected the church buildings in Avon, Simsbury, Bristol, Southington, Turkey Hills (East Granby), New Britain, Litchfield, and New Milford. It was voted to erect a building sixty-eight feet in length and fifty-six feet in width, and to make the interior like that of the Free (South) Church in Hartford and the exterior front like that of the church in Bristol. There was some delay in further action in regard to the site, and finally some additional land on the north was purchased of Thomas Brace. The building committee chosen were Seth Talcott, Timothy Sedgwick, Samuel Whitman, Solomon S. Flagg, Ralph Wells, Mark Gridley and Joseph E. Cone. The building was dedicated in March, 1835, under the direction of a committee of arrangements consisting of H. G. Webster, Benjamin Belden, Romanta Seymour, Edwin W. Belden, Gurdon Flagg, Whiting Colton, and James Whitman. The names of these committeemen will be of interest to many, since

they recall the families who were prominent and efficient in church and town affairs in the history of West Hartford at that time.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
BUILT IN 1834. NOW KNOWN AS THE TOWN HALL.

This building is still standing on its original site, changed in its outward appearance only by the removal of a part of the steeple or tower.

At the time when this new building was erected, the society decided to seek for some method of raising funds other than by taxation. They decided to sell the seats or pews in the new church for a sum sufficient to cover the entire expense of erecting it, estimated at six thousand dollars, and to impose an annual tax upon each pew owner at a rate per cent on the price paid for it, sufficient to provide in the aggregate for the support of the minister and for other necessary expenses. This plan was carried out. The annual rate of taxation was fixed at ten per cent. The following is a copy of the deed of one of the pews given at that time to Hezekiah Goodwin Webster, one of the prominent citizens of the town.

"WHEREAS the Orthodox Congregational Society of West Hartford, in the Town and County of Hartford, and State of Connecticut, have erected and completed a new house for public worship, in which individuals of said Society are entitled to hold in severalty and in fee certain interests in the same, according to the votes of said Society, passed at the Society meetings held January 9th, and 27th, and February 10th, 17th, 20th, and 25th, 1834; and whereas the slips in said house have been sold according to the votes passed at the aforesaid meetings, so that the individual purchasers are now entitled to receive a deed of conveyance of their respective interests from the agent of said Society.

NOW THEREFORE, WE, the Orthodox Congregational Society of West Hartford aforesaid, for divers good considerations thereunto moving, especially for the sum of Sixty Five Dollars received to our full satisfaction, of Hezekiah G. Webster of the town of Hartford, Society of West Hartford, a member of said Orthodox Congregational Society, do by these presents assign, transfer and convey to said Hezekiah G. Webster to his heirs, executors and assigns, all the interest, right or title which we have or ought to have in Slip No. 39 in said house, situated in the North half of the same, unto him the said Hezekiah G. Webster, his heirs and assigns, to hold the same in fee simple, subject only to the provisions and incumbrances mentioned in vote third of February 10th 1834, viz: subject to a percentage sufficient to support a clergyman, and other necessary expenses, and not to exceed ten per cent, on the original appraisal of said slips, as in vote 10th of November 3, 1834, and to be sold for the same if necessary, according to the foregoing votes passed February 10th and November 3d, 1834.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, this Ninth day of March A.D. 1835.

The Orthodox Congregational Society
of West Hartford, by their Agents,

Signed in presence of — Hezekiah Selden
R. Seymour — Samuel Talcott, Jun.
Chester Francis

Hartford County s s Hartford the 9th day of March 1835.

Personally appeared by their Agent, the Orthodox Congregational Society of West Hartford, and acknowledged the above instrument to be their free act and deed, before me,

Solomon S. Flagg Justice of the Peace

(Reverse Side)

Orthodox Congregational Society of West Hartford Deed to Hezekiah G. Webster.

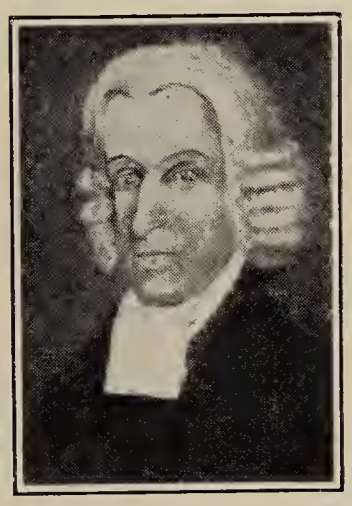
Recd. May 21st, 1835 and entered on the Society Records Book 2 page 28th by Sam Whitman Society Clerk."

But it soon became necessary to increase the salary of the minister and to incur other expenses, and the income proved insufficient. A movement was started inviting the owners of pews to relinquish their claims and allow the pews to be sold, or rented annually, to the highest bidder at auction. Many responded promptly and heartily to this appeal. Others did so after considerable deliberation and somewhat reluctantly, and some never acquiesced in the plan, and retained ownership of their pews so long as they existed. The pews which had been given up by their owners to the Society were rented each year to members of the church and congregation. The amount paid for the use of each pew was determined by holding an auction and assigning each pew to the highest bidder. This plan was continued for many years, but was finally superseded by the plan of making all the pews free and depending upon the free will offerings of the people for securing the necessary funds for meeting the expenses of the church.

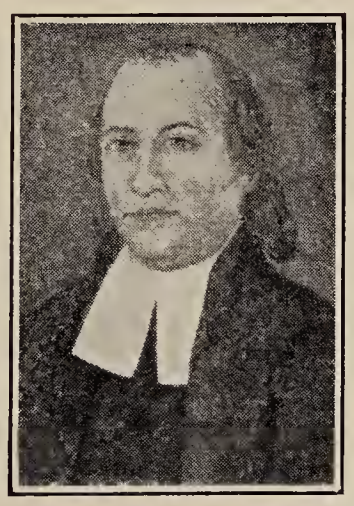
After the Society sold its vestry to the Town, it became necessary to make some provision for accommodations suitable for holding the weekly prayer meetings and for other similar purposes. Plans were considered for the erection of an addition to the church on its southwest corner, but the people of the Baptist Church claimed the ownership of a considerable part of the land desired for this purpose. As it was found impossible to make any satisfactory arrangement with them even after a decision of the court had been obtained in favor of the people of the Congregational Church, the project was abandoned and in 1881 the church exchanged its property with the Town for the vestry and land on which the vestry stood on the southeast corner of Main Street and Farmington Avenue and purchased additional land where the horse sheds were located south of the vestry. Upon that site the granite stone church which is still standing was built. In the exchange of property the Society

received from the Town the sum of $3,000. The entire cost of the building was $29,663.89. The furnishings cost $3,773.17 making a total of $33,437.06.

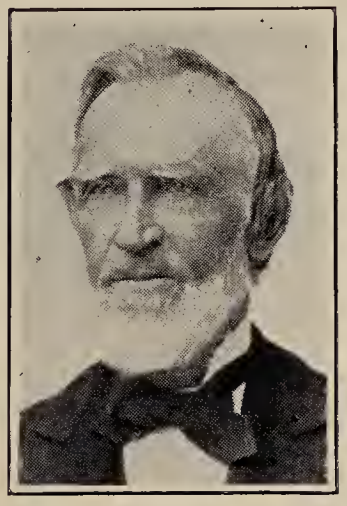
The building committee were Joseph E. Brace (chairman), John B. Griswold, Edward L. Mix, Walter Cadwell, Benjamin Sterling Bishop and Prof. Charles C. Stearns. The builders were the W. N. Flynt Construction Company of Monson, Mass., and the granite was from the Monson quarries.



REV. BENJ. COLTON



REV. N. PERKINS



REV. M. N. MORRIS

REV. T. HODGDON

The following named persons have served as the ministers of this church from the date of its organization in 1713 until the present time:

Benjamin Colton	1713–1759
Nathaniel Hooker	1757–1770
*Nathan Perkins	1772–1838
*Caleb S. Henry	1833–1835
Edward W. Andrews	1837–1840
George I. Wood	1841–1844
Dwight M. Seward	1845–1850
Myron N. Morris	1852–1875

Franklin S. Hatch	1876–1883
Henry B. Roberts	1883–1890
Charles W. Mallory	1890–1890
**Thomas M. Hodgdon	1891–1926
Rev James F. Halliday	1926

*Rev. Caleb S. Henry and Rev. Edward A. Andrews were colleagues of Rev. Nathan Perkins, who retained his position as pastor until his death in 1838.

**Now pastor Emeritus.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
BUILT IN 1882

During the two hundred and sixteen years of its history, the church has had four ministers whose pastorates aggregated over one hundred and seventy years, and whose cumulative personal influence in the church and community was of incalculable value. The church has always manifested great interest in the missionary work of the Congregational churches as carried on in this and in foreign lands, and has contributed liberally for the support of that work. It was among the first churches in the State to organize a Sunday school for the religious instruction of the young, and to organize a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. It also entered early and heartily into the Boys' Brigade, Boy Scout, and Girl Scout movements. Its pastors have been actively interested in the promotion of the interests of the public schools, rendering service as members of the school committee and as acting school visitors having the general oversight of the schools.

The most serious disturbance in its past history occurred during the pastorate of Rev. Benjamin Colton when, in the language of the ancient records, the Society voted that they were "uneasy at Mr. Colton for interfering with Mr. Brace in setting the psalm." This led to Mr. Colton's resignation.

FIRST CHURCH PARSONAGE BUILT IN 1838
OCCUPIED BY REVS. ANDREWS, WOOD, SEWARD, MORRIS, HATCH, ROBERTS, MALLORY, HODGDON AND THEIR FAMILIES.

The church for many years held two preaching services on Sunday and a prayer meeting on Sunday evening besides a weekly prayer meeting on Friday evening. During the early autumn, prayer meetings were held weekly in some of the schoolhouses in the outlying districts. These were conducted by the minister or one of the deacons.

The following is a list of many of those who, through the generations, have gone from this church to render service as ministers of the gospel in other communities:

Rev. Eli Colton (son of the first pastor), graduated from Yale College, 1737. Pastor at Granby, 1740-2; Stafford, 1744–56.

Rev. George Colton (son of first pastor), graduated from Yale College, 1756. Pastor at Bolton, 1763–1812.

Rev. George Colton, graduated from Yale College, 1804. Home missionary in New York State. Pastor at

Westford, N. Y., 1809–1836; pastor at Wyoming, N. Y., 1836–39.

Eliphalet Steele, graduated from Yale College, 1764. Pastor at Paris, N. Y., 1770.

Rev. Nathan Perkins, Jr. (son of third pastor), graduated from Yale College 1795. Studied law for a time; pastor of Second Congregational Church, Amherst, Mass., 1807–42.

Rev. Marshfield Steele, graduated from Yale College, 1790. Home missionary for a time in Vermont and New York State. Pastor at Machias, Me., 1800-32.

Rev. Chester Colton, graduated from Yale College, 1804. Home missionary for a time in New York State. Pastor at Brentwood, N. H.; Old Lyme, 1829-39; North Goshen, 1839. During the latter part of his life he was engaged in home missionary work in Ohio.

Rev. Joab Brace, graduated from Yale College. Pastor at Newington, 1805–55.

Rev. Epaphras Goodman, graduated from Dartmouth College, 1816. Home missionary in South Carolina. Pastor in Torringford, 1822–36. Actively interested in reformatory, missionary, and educational enterprises. Editor of Watchman of the Valley and Christian Era. Western Secretary at Chicago of A.M.A.

Rev. Avelyn Sedgwick, pastor at Ogden, N. Y.

Rev. Seymour N. Spencer. Engaged in foreign missionary work.

Rev. Richard Woodruff. Pastor at Morris, 1838–41; Unionville, 1842-46; Hampton, 1848–52.

Rev. Amzi Francis, graduated from Middlebury College. Pastor at Bridgehampton, L. I.

Rev. Chester Isham, graduated from Yale College, where he excelled in scholarship and attainments. Pastor at Taunton, Mass., 1824. Died 1825, greatly beloved and lamented.

Rev. Austin Isham, graduated from Yale College. Pastor at Roxbury, 1839–63. Later supplied church at New Preston Hill. United with West Hartford Church in 1829, and continued a member through life.

Rev. Lemuel Haynes, supposed to have been son of a colored household slave in one of the West Hartford families. A devoted and efficient pastor at Granville, Mass.

Rev. Hiram Elmer. Pastor in Chelsea, Mich. Afterwards connected with the faculty of Olivet College.

Rev. Charles C. Stearns, stepson of Charles Boswell, graduated from Yale University, 1872. Missionary of American Board, Manissa, Turkey; professor in Doane College, Nebraska; proprietor of Boys' School, Hart-

ford; Professor in Pomona College, Claremont, California.

Rev. Everett H. Francis, graduated from Yale University, 1892. He was pastor at Ludlow, Mass., 1895–1905, resigning his position on account of illness. He now resides in Springfield, Mass.

Rev. Charles N. Morris, son of Rev. M. N. Morris, graduated from Yale University, 1882; Berkeley Divinity School, 1889. He served in Episcopal churches as curate or rector in Stamford, New Haven, and Lyme, Connecticut; in Westminster, Maryland; Philadelphia, Penn.; Brooklyn, N. Y.; Chester, Boston, and Amesbury, Mass. He is now living in Amesbury, having retired from active service because of defective hearing.

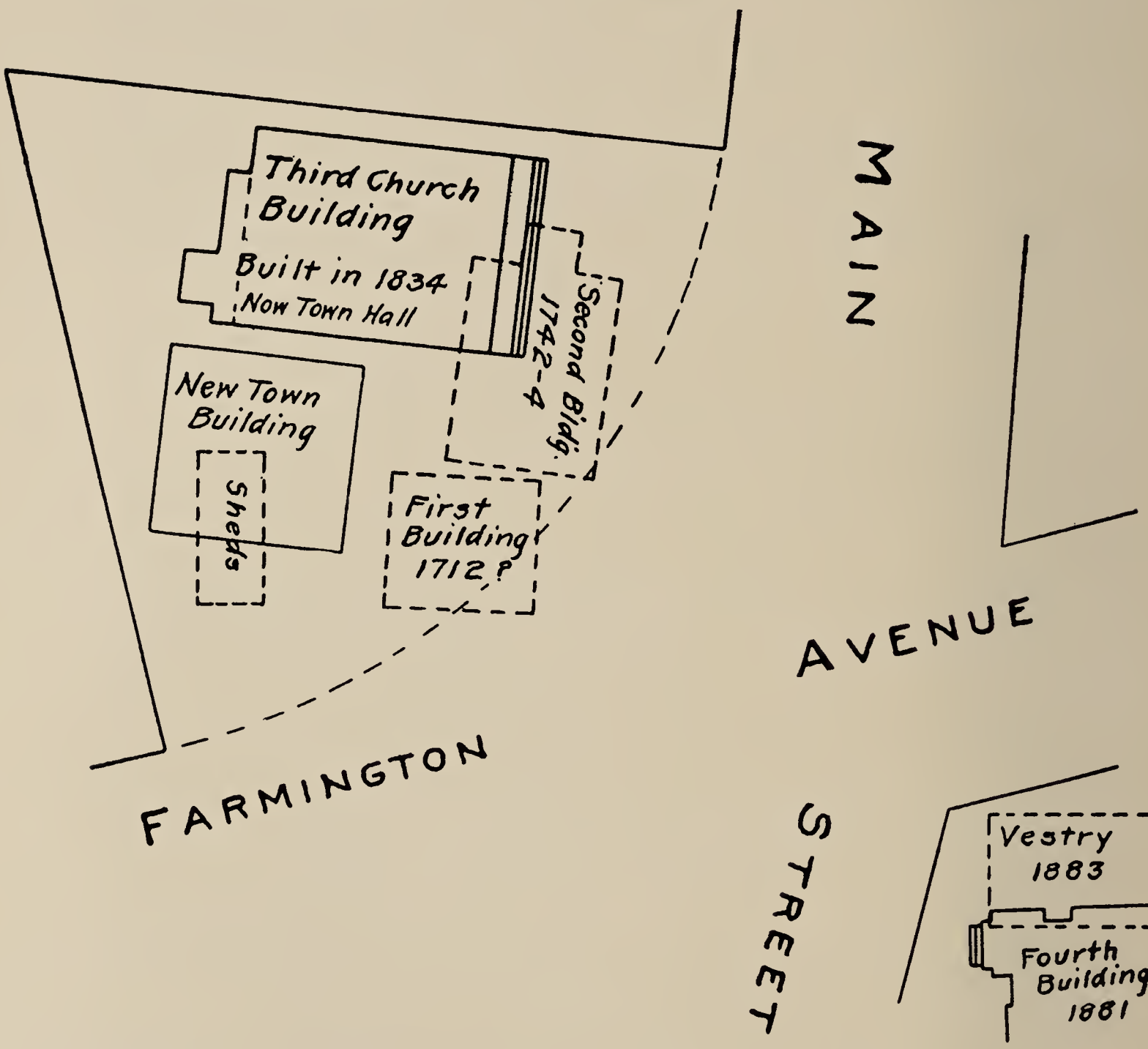
The Quaker Meeting House, School House, and Cemetery. As early as 1780 some people who represented The Nine Partners of Quakers in New York State came to the West Division for the purpose of forming a Quaker church here. They purchased one acre of land on the east side of the road later known as Quaker Lane at the point where the small cemetery is now located. That land was a part of a large farm owned by Charles and Elisha Gilbert. A meetinghouse and schoolhouse were built soon after, and the church organized. The meetinghouse was located near the northwest corner of the lot. It had two outside entrances, one for the males, the other for the females, according to the prevailing custom among the Quaker people at that time. The schoolhouse was located in the southwest corner of the lot.

The principal families of the West Division who embraced that faith and became members and supporters of that church were the Gilberts, Arnolds, Cadwells, and Sedgwicks. Some of the headstones still remaining in the cemetery bear these family names. A number who became identified with this Quaker Church had been members of the Fourth Church of Christ (Congregational), and when they withdrew to join the Quakers they were charged with heresy.

When John Greenleaf Whittier, the Quaker poet, came to Hartford in 1830 and became editor of the New England Review, it is reported that he served as an elder in this church. Ill health compelled him to relinquish his editorial position in 1832 and return to Massachusetts; so his connection with the church was brief.

It is not definitely known how long the Quakers continued to hold meetings in this meetinghouse, but there are reasons for believing that a meeting was held at least once a year, when Quakers came for that purpose from other localities, until about 1830.

The Quaker schoolhouse was used at first for a school exclusively for the instruction of the children of Quaker families, but in later years it was apparently used by the East School District for the maintenance of a district school. Mr. Frederick A. Mitchell, now one of the oldest residents of West Hartford, whose boyhood home was on Park Road near Oakwood Avenue,



CHART, PREPARED BY HENRY C. WHITMAN, SHOWING LOCATION OF THREE CHURCH BUILDINGS ERECTED SUCCESSIVELY ON LAND FORMERLY OWNED BY TIMOTHY GOODMAN ON THE WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET NOW OCCUPIED BY TOWN OFFICE BUILDING AND TOWN HALL

distinctly remembers attending school in that building in his boyhood, and Mrs. J. P. Allen of Hartford, daughter of Charles G. Arnold, formerly a resident of that district, also was an attendant of the district school in that building when the teacher was Sylvanius F. Cone, father of the late Col. William E. Cone, John Barnard Cone, and Mrs. C. W. Pratt of Hartford.

About 1852 Benjamin Gilbert, a prominent Quaker, purchased the meetinghouse and schoolhouse and had them drawn by many yokes of oxen to a position farther north on the west side of Quaker Lane and converted into a dwelling house. The meeting-house constituted the main building and the schoolhouse formed the ell. This house was occupied by different families in succession for several years and was finally entirely destroyed by fire.

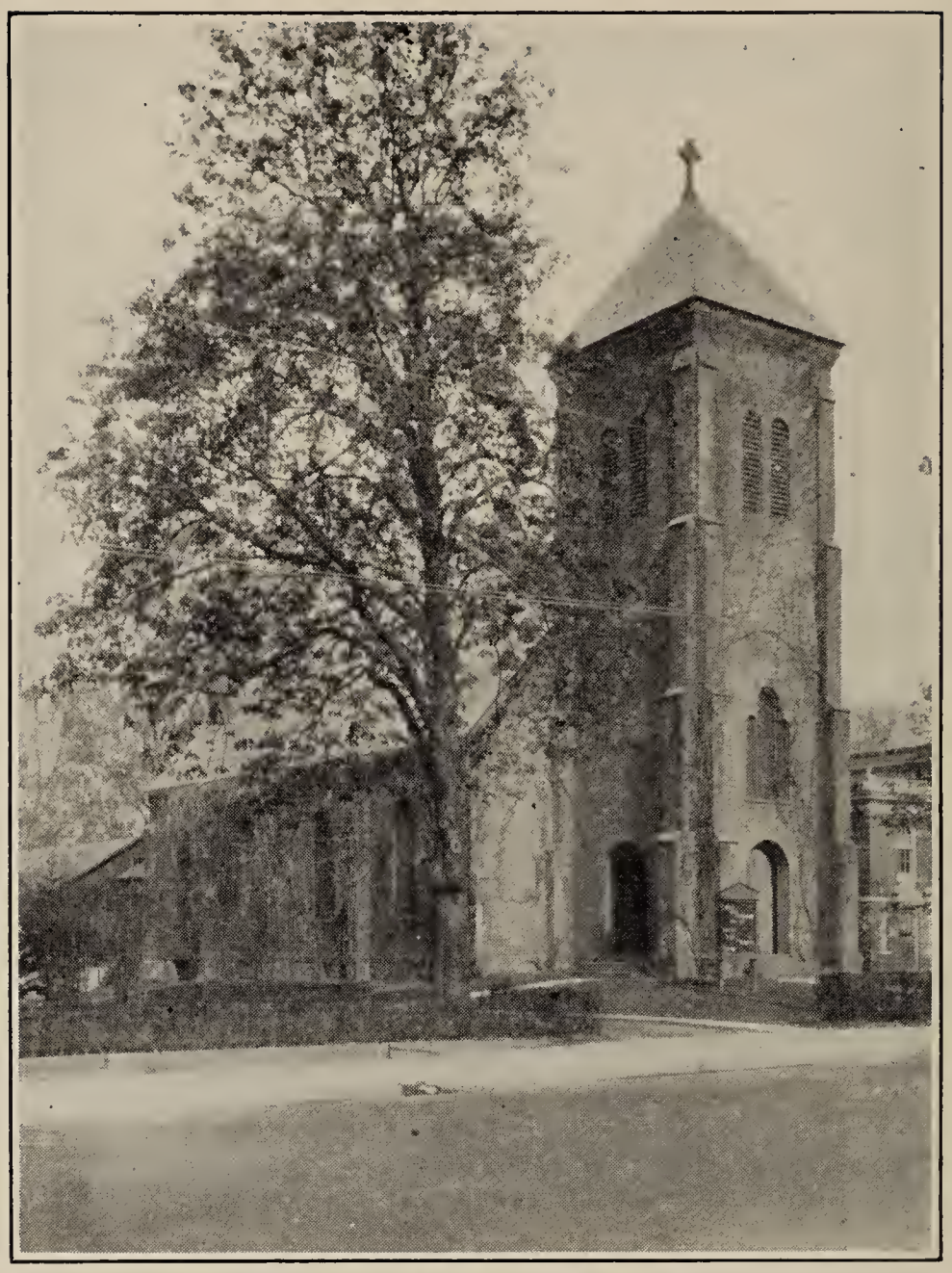
In 1915 Mrs. J. P. Allen of Hartford caused a fine ornamental iron fence to be built at her expense enclosing the cemetery, and

QUAKER CEMETERY

some other improvements to be made in its condition, a worthy tribute of regard for those people of former generations who worshipped there and were buried there.

The cemetery is now under the general care and oversight of the Town Plan, Park, and Cemetery Commission of West Hartford.

St. James Episcopal Church. The first public services of this church were held in 1843 in the Quaker Meeting house, then standing on Quaker Lane. Worship was also conducted for a while in the North District schoolhouse, and later services were held in the Academy building on the east side of the park at West Hartford Center. Reverend George Burgess, the rector of Christ Church, Hartford, had general charge.



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The present site of the church was purchased in 1852, and the corner stone of the building was laid with appropriate ceremonies on October 23, 1853. The building was consecrated with appropriate ceremonies, in which many prominent Episcopal clergymen had part, on April 25, 1855. The tower of the church, which was originally low, was extended in 1861 to its present height.

What is now the rectory was originally built for the second pastor of the Congregational Church, Reverend Nathan Hooker, Jr., in 1658. Afterwards it was owned and occupied by Reverend Nathan Perkins, D. D., who was pastor of the Congregational Church from 1773 until 1838. It was purchased for St. James Church in 1868, moved back from its original location quite near to the street, and remodeled.

The following named clergymen have served as rectors since 1852:

Samuel Benedict, Jan. 18, 1852 to Nov. 27, 1855. Became Rector of St. John's Church, Savannah, Georgia.

Abner Jackson, 1856, April to October. Became President of Trinity College.

Thomas Ruggles Pynchon, 1857 to 1863. Became a professor at Trinity College.

Peter Voorhees Finch, 1863.

Benjamin Webb, Oct. 1863 to 1864.

John Trumbull Huntington, 1864 to 1869. Became Rector of the Church of the Incarnation, Hartford, and a professor at Trinity College.

G. H. Clark, D.D., 1869 to 1873.

Thomas Ruggles Pynchon, 1873 to August 1875. Became President of Trinity College.

William Ford Nichols, August 8, 1875 to April 29, 1877. Became Rector of Christ Church, Hartford, and Bishop of California.

John Moore Bates, July 1877 to April 1881.

Joseph William Hyde, Sept. 3, 1882 to June 1887.

Greenough White, Sept. 22, 1893 to June, 1894.

James Gammack, LL.D., Feb. 1896 to October 1911. Retired and died here February 17, 1923.

Harry Erskine Robbins, February 1912 to November 1914.

Samuel Rawson Colladay, October 1, 1916 to October 1, 1917. Became Rector of Christ Church and Dean of the Cathedral.

John Stockton Littell, D.D., October 1, 1918 to 1929.

In time of vacancies, baptisms, communions for the sick, confirmation preparations, and parish services were recorded by Professors Huntington, Pynchon, Hart, Ferguson, Beckwith, and Urban of Trinity College.

The church has received many valuable gifts from time to time from its members and friends, including memorial windows, an organ from Mrs. Alice Gilbert Beach, a bell from the family of Robert Price, and a house and several acres of land bequeathed by the will of Mrs. Oliver Stanley, whose home was at the corner of Mountain Road and Park Road. The Huntington and Beach families have been for many years generous financial supporters of the church and the donors of many valuable gifts. For many years the prosperity and efficiency of the church was greatly promoted by the generous and valuable contributions in money and in devoted official and personal service of the family of Charles M. Beach. Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Huntington were also for many years generous and efficient supporters of the church.

After the resignation of Rev. John S. Littell as rector, the question of the continued maintenance of the church received much careful consideration and it was decided that, for a time at least, it should be affiliated with St. John's Episcopal Church

on Farmington Avenue, its services and work to be under the direction of the rector and assistant rector of that church.

Baptist Church. On the fourth day of March, 1858, Elam Tuttle, Joel E. Rood, Virgil L. Woodford, Joseph C. Sisson, Lyman Hotchkiss, Jr., and Joseph Bishop, citizens of West Hartford, purchased of Adna Hart of Farmington one acre of land with the buildings thereon, situated on the north side of Farmington Avenue, opposite the post office and store of Leonard Buckland. The buildings consisted of an old tavern, a barn and shed. The premises were occupied by David E. Stoddard, a son-in-law of Mr. Hart, and his family. This purchase was made by the persons named with a view to the organization of a Baptist church in the community and the erection of a church building.

On the 24th of April of that same year, a meeting of those interested in the organization of a church was held at which the following named persons were present: Josiah Briggs, Elam Tuttle, Virgil L. Woodford, Lyman Hotchkiss, Jr., Joel E. Rood, Joseph C. Sisson, O. L. Tuttle (probably Mrs. Elam Tuttle), Mrs. L. J. Woodford, Mrs. E. Sisson, Mrs. D. H. Rood, Mrs. L. Bishop, Mrs. L. B. Bulkeley.

On May fourth a "recognition meeting" was held with the following named persons present, who are referred to in the church records as original members.

Josiah Briggs	Mrs. Patience Briggs
Miss Caroline S. Briggs	Elam Tuttle
Mrs. Betsy L. Tuttle	Orrin L. Tuttle
V. L. Woodford	Mrs. Lucia Woodford
Charles Ramsey	Lyman Hotchkiss, Jr.
Joel E. Rood	Mrs. Dorinda H. Rood
Mrs. Elizabeth Sisson	Mrs. Zerviah H. Bishop
Mrs. Lucy Bulkeley	Mrs. Hannah Parsons

Mrs. Sarah A. Churchill

The Stoddard family continued to occupy the tavern for a while, but as they did not use the spacious ball-room on the second floor of the building, preaching services were held there on Sunday quite regularly for some months. Frequently the preachers were those leaders in the Baptist denomination of the State known as "elders," men of somewhat unusual ability and in some cases of unique characteristics as preachers, who attracted large congregations. Among these were Elders Swan, Jennings, and Shailer.

Admissions to membership in the church were accompanied by baptisms by immersion, which often took place on Sunday afternoon in the river near Bishop's Bridge on Bishop Road, now Fern Streeet. As this was a novel feature in the church life of the community as well as an interesting and impressive

ceremony, it attracted a large attendance of the people of the town as well as from other communities.

BAPTIST CHURCH, BUILT IN 1858

At a meeting held May 24, 1858, it was voted that "we go forward and build a meeting house as soon as possible," and on June 21, 1858, it was voted "to build a house similar to plan of O. H. Easton of Hartford: 66 feet by 41½ feet." The corner stone was laid on August 19, 1858, and on February 3, 1859, the church was dedicated. On June 26, 1858, Elam Tuttle and Charles Ramsey were elected the first deacons of the Church, and on April 1, 1859, Rev. Dr. Elisha Cushman was elected first pastor, serving until June 3, 1861, and continuing after that date until April 1, 1862

EDWARD C. NICHOLS
Janitor for 25 years

as supply. Rev. Dr. Cushman also occupied the position of editor of the Christian Secretary, a weekly religious paper published for many years in Hartford in the interest of the Baptist Churches.

A very exciting event occurred in connection with Rev. Dr. Cushman's ministry. One Sunday during the opening year of the Civil War he took occasion to preach a vigorous (war) sermon in which he expressed sympathy with the South. His sermon greatly disturbed some members of the church and congregation. When the people came to church the next Sunday morning, they beheld a Confederate flag wrapped about the steeple, far up towards its highest point. There were many expressions of indignation and curiosity, and no service was held in the church on that day. Later in the week the flag was taken down, but it was not known by whom it had been put up. No member of the church or congregation was suspected of having had any connection with the affair.

Rev. N. H. Bennett served as pastor from April 1862 to October 1863; William M. Ross from May 14, 1865, to some time in 1868; E. W. Pray from October 1868 to about January, 1870. Mylon Merriam served from November 27, 1871, to July, 1872, following which period Rev. Amasa Howard of the Washington Street Baptist Church, Hartford, (now the Memorial Baptist Church) held services once a month, beginning October, 1873.

Rev. R. E. Whittemore served as pastor from July 1876 to April 1877, and Brother Randlett was stated supply for about six months thereafter. Following this, E. B. Elmer was lay preacher for about six months early in 1878, but was succeeded by C. W. Ray and Brother Barton as stated supply, after serving for a short period.

On October 30, 1879, George W. Hinckley was called as pastor and was ordained on May 13, 1880. This was Rev. Mr. Hinckley's first pastorate. After leaving this church he had a short pastorate at Rainbow in the town of Windsor, then went to Maine as a missionary of the American Sunday School Union. A few years later he founded the Good Will Homes for boys, which has since become an institution of nation-wide reputation and has given thousands of boys a fine start in life. Mr. Hinckley served until October, 1881, and in 1882 was succeeded by Rev. H. G. Smith.

In 1889 Mrs. Minnie L. Jackson was pastor, serving until 1890. Rev. E. E. Ayres was pastor in 1890. The church was pastorless from 1891 to 1894. Rev. W. R. Bartlett was pastor until 1897. Rev. N. M. Leonard was stated supply in 1898. In September, 1898, Rev. W. J. Noble was called to the pastorate. He was succeeded in 1900 by Rev. Harvey R. Traver, who served until December 31, 1903.

On January 1, 1904, W. S. Middlemass, a student at the Hartford Theological Seminary, was called as pastor. He

served until March 29, 1905, and was succeeded by E. K. Jordon of the same Seminary, who continued to February 28, 1907. A very severe illness of several months' duration from typhoid fever prevented him from doing effective work for a good part of this time.

In May, 1907, J. Franklin Ray was called and served until June, 1908. He was succeeded by M. C. Tunison, who continued to May, 1912. On November 1, 1912, C. A. Boyd became pastor. He was ordained as a minister on February 12, 1913, and continued with the Church until June 1914, during a part of the time serving as assistant pastor at the Asylum Avenue Baptist Church, Hartford.

On October 1, 1914, James Perry, a student at the Hartford Theological Seminary, became pastor, continuing to June 3, 1915. Mr. Perry afterwards served in the Red Cross, working in Turkey and Armenia during and following the World War, and in 1920 was killed by the Turks in Armenia.

On October 15, 1915, Rev. Earle W. Darrow became pastor, coming from the church at South Willington, and continued to serve until August 31, 1920, when he left to become pastor of the First Baptist Church of Holyoke, Mass. During his pastorage, the Church made its first decided gain in membership, increasing from 90 to 110.

In September 1921, Thurman A. Varnadore, D.D., became pastor, continuing to January 1, 1922, and was succeeded on May 20, 1922, by George F. Wortley. Mr. Wortley was ordained October 25, 1922, and continued to July 1, 1924.

On April 1, 1923, the by-laws of the Church were amended to divide the membership into active and associate classes, the active members to be those received through baptism, by letter from any Baptist church, or on experience if one had been immersed in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; the associate members to be received by letter from any Evangelical church not of the Baptist denomination. The associate members have equal vote in all church matters with the active members, excepting in the matter of church doctrine.

Following Mr. Wortley's pastorate, Rev. A. B. Coats, D.D., secretary emeritus of the Baptist State Convention, served as acting pastor until the close of 1925. During this period the church was thoroughly renovated. The basement was put in condition to use; modern plumbing was installed, including a new furnace. The entire cost was over $20,000. The year before, a new organ had been presented by Dr. W. H. Andrus, and the church was rededicated on April 3, 1925.

On January 3, 1926, Rev. Ellis M. Gilbert came from the Danbury Baptist Church to become pastor and has continued to serve since that date. At the time he became pastor, the Church had 125 active members and 8 associate. By November 1, 1928,

the membership had increased to 183 active and 27 associate.

A daily vacation Bible school was conducted by the Church in 1926, and in 1927 and 1928 was continued under the joint charge of the Baptist and Congregational Churches. On November 18, 1928, a branch Sunday school was started at North Main Street near Albany Avenue.

Rev. Franklin Davenport Elmer, a native of West Hartford and son of Rev. Eldridge B. Elmer, a graduate of Brown University and of the University of Chicago, was a member of this church in his youth. He has had successful pastorates in Winsted, Conn., Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and Hamilton, N. Y., where he is pastor of the Colgate University Church. For many years he has been a prominent leader in the National Religious Educational Association.

The Elmwood Community Church. The Elmwood Community Church is in reality the outgrowth of a religious movement in the southern section of West Hartford which began in 1873 when, under the leadership of Mr. George T. Goodwin, a Sunday school was organized in the month of June, in the old South District schoolhouse at the corner of New Britain Avenue and West Hartford Main Street.

The school began with forty members and was efficiently maintained by the earnest corps of teachers and workers who cooperated with Mr. Goodwin in the work. The sessions were held on Sunday afternoons in the schoolhouse until 1876, when it became evident that larger and better accommodations were needed. At that time a lot was purchased on the corner of New Britain Avenue and Grove Street and a building erected known as the Elmwood Chapel. This building was completed and furnished ready for occupancy with all bills paid. The Ladies Aid Society of Elmwood by their services and contributions furnished $2,000 of the sum expended. The session of the Sunday school and other religious services were held in this chapel until the recent erection of the building on Newington Road known as the Elmwood Community Church.

The fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the Sunday school was observed with appropriate exercises in the chapel in 1923.

Preaching services have been held in the chapel during the greater part of its history. These have been conducted by pastors of neighboring churches and by students from the Hartford Theological Seminary. Some of those students in addition to their preaching on Sunday rendered helpful service by visiting the homes of the people during the week. Some of them devoted most of their summer vacations to work of this character in Elmwood.

ELMWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

One student who is affectionately remembered by the older people of the community is Rev. Dr. A. Z. Conrad, now pastor of the Park Street Church in Boston, recognized as one of the most prominent and successful preachers in our country at the present day. Another whose work at Elmwood is most gratefully remembered is Rev. Harry S. Bissell, who afterwards for many years was a successful missionary of the American Board of Foreign Missions in Ahmedneggar, India and who died while in service there. The people of the Congregational church in West Hartford and of the Elmwood Chapel made generous contributions to his financial support in that field. Rev. C. B. Olds, another student of the Theological Seminary who rendered service at Elmwood, became a missionary in Japan. Rev. William F. English, who had charge of the work at Elmwood later, became a professor in the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Rev. James R. Carter was called to preach at Elmwood at a later date and was recognized as an assistant pastor of the Congregational Church at West Hartford, receiving a portion of his salary from that Church. He was successful in his work and was greatly interested in the promotion of the highest interests of the people. He resigned to accept the pastorate of the Congregational Church in Ellington, Conn.

Prof. W. A. J. Myers of the Hartford School of Religious

Pedagogy became deeply interested in the work after Mr. Carter's departure, and rendered fine service there. He was convinced that there should be some sort of a permanent religious organization in that section of West Hartford, and in response to his suggestions and efforts a Community Church was organized on March 4, 1921, and Rev. James F. English was called to serve as pastor. Hiram Hurlburt and Thomas C. Brown were elected deacons, William Acker, clerk, and William B. Johnson, treasurer.

Shortly after the formation of the church some of the most interested members began to give serious consideration to the matter of securing a church building. One day as Rev. Mr. English, Mrs. W. H. Mueller, William Acker, William B. Johnson, and A. W. Bradley were holding a conference in reference to the interests of the church, they spoke of the need of such a building and the course to be pursued in securing funds, when Mrs. Mueller suggested that they might start a movement then and there, and proposed to contribute twenty-five cents, all the money which she had with her at the time, as the nucleus of a building fund. From that small beginning the securing of funds went forward successfully, and a site was purchased on Newington Road for the new church.

Mr. English carried forward the work and interests of the church in a spirit of earnest devotion and with marked success until 1925, when he resigned to accept a call to the pastorate of the Congregational Church in Putnam, Conn. He was succeeded by Rev. Charles K. Tracy, who came from a successful pastorate in the Congregational Church in Collinsville and became pastor of the Elmwood Church on Feb. 23d, 1926. Under his pastorate a church building has been erected at a cost of $82,000, with ample provisions for auditorium and conference room and fine accomodations for social and recreational purposes. The church lot has a frontage of 176 feet.

The membership of the church is 301, with flourishing active organizations, including a Sunday school of 225 members, a Men's Club, a Young People's Society and a Missionary Circle.

The Church still retains possession of the chapel and lot on the corner of New Britain Avenue and Grove Street.

The officers at the present time are: clerk, William Mueller; treasurer, Wallace B. Goodwin; deacons, Thomas C. Brown, Henry A. Wolcott, John M. Shaw, William J. Craig, and Harold D. Holden.

The Swedish Methodist Church. This church, which had its first location in Hartford on Hungerford Street, was organized September 3, 1895, with twenty members. The first pastor was Rev. August Syren.

In 1920 the present church building, located on the corner of the Boulevard and Lockwood Terrace, was built under direction of a building committee consisting of J. A. Berg, Otto Hjerpe, Herman Engstrom, Simeon Anderson, Herman Lindh, and Albine Engstrom. The cost of the building was $58,900.

The church has had ten pastors to date (1929), changes having been made from time to time in accordance with the custom of the Methodist denomination. The present pastor is Rev. Ludwig Pehrson and the present membership is one hundred fifty-one.

St. John's Episcopal Church. St. John's Church was originally located in Hartford. It was an offshoot of Christ Church, and was organized in 1841 with thirty-seven members. Among those who were interested and influential in the movement were William T. Lee of the firm of Lee & Butler, founders of the present Sisson Drug Company, and Lemuel Humphrey of the well known grocery firm of Humphrey & Seyms.

Ground was purchased as a site for a church building on the east side of Main Street, just south of Wadsworth Atheneum. The first rector was Rev. Arthur Cleveland Coxe, who in later years became Bishop of Western New York. Rev. E. A. Washburn, Rev. William Crosswell D. Doane, Rev. Lawrence H. Mills, Rev. Dr. Watson Meir Smith, and Rev. A. Douglas Miller served successively as rectors until 1882. During an interim between the terms of service of Rev. Mr. Miller and Rev. Dr. Smith, Rev. Francis Goodwin of Hartford had charge of the services for eight months. Rev. J. W. Bradin became rector in 1882 and continued until 1918.

In 1864 the Church voted to accept, as a mission, the work which had been organized by the rector in the South Meadows, which was generously supported by Mrs. Samuel Colt, and Rev. H. W. Nelson was called to serve as assistant rector. That mission later developed into the Church of The Good Shepherd. St John's Episcopal Church of East Hartford also began as a mission of St. John's Church of Hartford.

About 1888, the Church felt called upon to give serious consideration to the question of a change of location. It was felt that it might be an advantage to remove to some location in the western part of the city. When plans for the erection of the Morgan Memorial were under consideration, it was felt by many that the building should be in close proximity to the Wadsworth Atheneum, and in November, 1905, the St. John's Church property was sold for $70,000, but the Church was permitted to retain the use of it until 1907.

While the question of the choice of a new site was under consideration, Mr. John O. Enders and his brother, Thomas B. Enders, offered to give a site in West Hartford on the south side of Farmington Avenue just west of the city line. This generous offer was accepted and a building was erected and consecrated in 1909. For the two years prior to that event the church services were held in the Chapter House of the King's Daughters on South Prospect Avenue.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

A fine parish house was added in 1915 and a large addition was made to the church in 1928 and dedicated with impressive and appropriate services on Sunday, December 9, 1928. Rev. Dr. Campion E. Acheson, Bishop of Connecticut, and Rev. Dr. Henry B. Washburn, Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass., having important parts in the service. Rev. William T. Hooper, D.D., became associate rector of the church in July 1917, and in July 1918 was made rector of the Church. Mr. Bradin became Rector Emeritus in July 1, 1918, and died December 12, 1923. At the present time Rev. Walter H. Gray, B.D. is Assistant Rector.

Among the prominent laymen who have rendered conspicuous service in the interests of the church, in addition to those already mentioned in connection with its organization, are the following: Edwin Taylor, L. J. Hendee, Henry Pease, George W. Woolley, James A. Smith, Judge Pardee, Shiras Morris.

The brief historical sketch of the church prepared by the Junior Warden in 1922 concludes with these words: "And now in these happy days of Mr. Hooper's active rectorship under his inspiring leadership with a past worthy of being lived up to, may we not with pardonable pride think that this is a grand old parish to belong to."

The Park Street Chapel. The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Emmanuel Church of Hartford, of which Rev. Julius Hulteen, B.D., is pastor, maintains a Sunday school and other branches of their work in a chapel located on the south side of Park Street just east of Oakwood Avenue.

This Sunday school was organized April 5, 1914, with a membership of thirty-three. The chapel was built in 1921 at a cost of $10,700. The present membership of the Sunday school is one hundred fifty-nine. The leaders of the school from the beginning, in succession have been Gottfried Swenson, Frank J. Wilson, Frederick Ellstrom, Gustaf L. Carlson, Bert W. Lindberg, and Lennart Morander, the present leader.

The chapel is much in use by the ladies for their meetings, by the Boy Scout Troop No. 29, and during the month of July each year by a vacation school. This is one of the vigorous, efficient organizations of the community for the prosecution of church work.

ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH, ELMWOOD

St. Bridget's Church. St. Bridget's Church, Elmwood, was formed as a mission unit of St. Laurence O'Toole's parish, Hartford, in January 1917. Services were held in the beginning in the New Departure Manufacturing Co. auditorium. Land was purchased on New Britain Avenue, and the erection of a church began in the spring of 1918. September 16th, 1918, the first Catholic church in West Hartford was completed and dedicated by Rt. Rev. John J. Nilan, Bishop of the Diocese.

August 4th, 1919, St. Bridget's was set off from St. Laurence O'Toole's and the corporation of St. Bridget's Diocesan Catholic Corporation of West Hartford was formed with Rev. William F. Odell, the first resident Pastor, and William H. Hoye and Richard J. Dillon the lay members of the Corporation.

The parish numbered at its foundation about 100 adults and 50 children. Today, in 1928, there are 350 adult communicants and 150 children in the Sunday school classes.

This church under the efficient leadership of Father William F. Odell has become an influential and important factor in the religious life of the community and is destined to grow and prosper as the community continues to increase in population and activities.

The Church of St. Thomas the Apostle. The parish of St. Thomas the Apostle was founded November 4, 1920, and Rev. John F. Callahan was appointed its first pastor.

The first mass was celebrated in a temporary structure — erected in seven days — at the corner of Quaker Lane and the Boulevard, on Sunday, November 11, 1920. No formal blessing or blessings accompanied the first mass, which was read by Father Callahan. The temporary structure had sittings for 250, and was filled to overflowing.

The first lay trustees of the parish were Mr. Michael McCormick and William Costello. The parish was legally incorporated under the laws of the State as "The Church of St. Thomas the Apostle Corporation, West Hartford."

The first census of the parish revealed 600 souls, men, women, and children.

On this site the parish held Divine Worship until it moved on November 7th, 1926, to its present and permanent location on Farmington Avenue and Dover Road. Here a stone church, Gothic in design, will be erected, of which the foundation and basement are already constructed and are serving for the celebration of mass. The present census of the parish reveals about 1500 souls.

The prosperous history of this church thus far, its favorable location, with the completion of its edifice gives promise of its becoming a very large and influential organization under the leadership of Father Callahan, now assisted by Rev. James E. Gorman.

SCHOOLS

The Public Schools

The earliest extant records of the Ecclesiastical Society respecting public schools are for the year 1736. At a meeting of the Society on the eighth day of December of that year, it was voted "That school be kept this year six months by a Master or Masters, and three months by a Dame or Dames, and that it be set up and ordered by the committee chosen for this year, and that the said committee shall, if they think best, set up a school again some time in October next, for the next year, by a Master or Masters." Apparently this vote was, in substance, a repetition of action taken by the people annually, rather than a vote establishing schools for the first time. The Committee to whom the duty of "setting up and ordering" the school was assigned consisted of Isaac Goodwin, Stephen Hosmer, Jonathan Sedgwick, John Seymour, and John Ensign, representatives of some of the most prominent families in the early history of the West Division.

In 1745 the Society voted "to build three new schoolhouses to take the place of the old ones." The building committee, Timothy Seymour, Joseph Skinner, Jacob Kellogg, John Whitman, Henry Brace, Gideon Butler, Timothy Skinner, Samuel Wells, and Thomas Shepard, was authorized to dispose of the old schoolhouses. There is mention in the records of the destruction by fire of the Old North School, and at a meeting of the Society held after the new schoolhouses had been built, a special committee was appointed to make inquiry as to what disposition had been made of the Old South School.

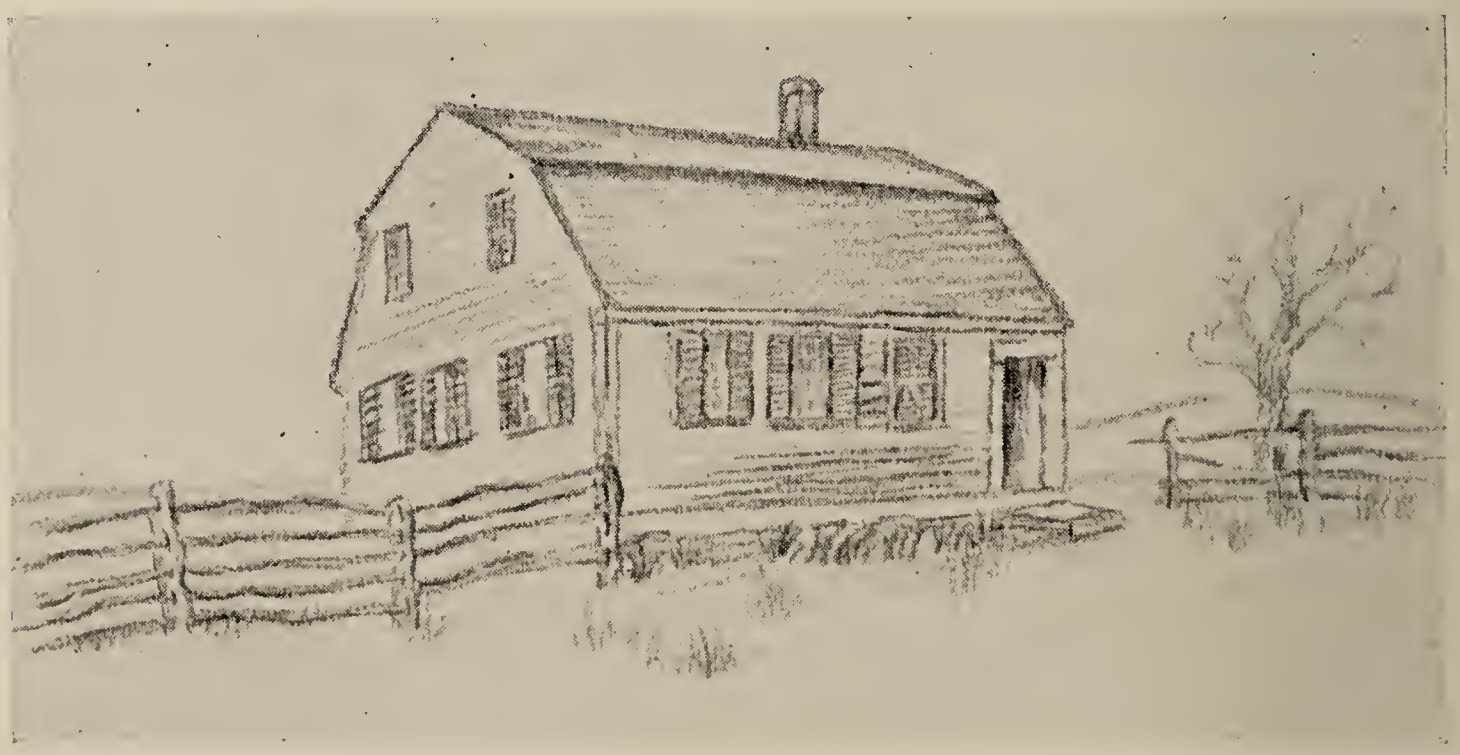
From these records it is apparent that in 1745 there were old schoolhouses which must have been built and in which schools were held at a much earlier date than 1736. It is also fair to conclude that the new schoolhouses built in 1745 were located one at the north end of the parish and another at the south end where the old schoolhouses had been, and the third undoubtedly at the center. The people had built their homes, to a large extent, in the central part of the so called "long sections," and schoolhouses located in this way from north to south, would best accommodate the families having children to attend school.

We do not know accurately about the character and general appearance of those school buildings, but the following representations of schoolhouses that were in existence in the West Division a hundred years ago, and which were then considered old, may serve to give us a good idea of the buildings erected in 1745, if indeed they may not be actual representations of those buildings.

The interior arrangement of most of the early buildings was of one type. The single outside door at one end, or in one corner of the building, opened into a small room called an entry, where the boys and girls left their outer garments, caps, hoods, and

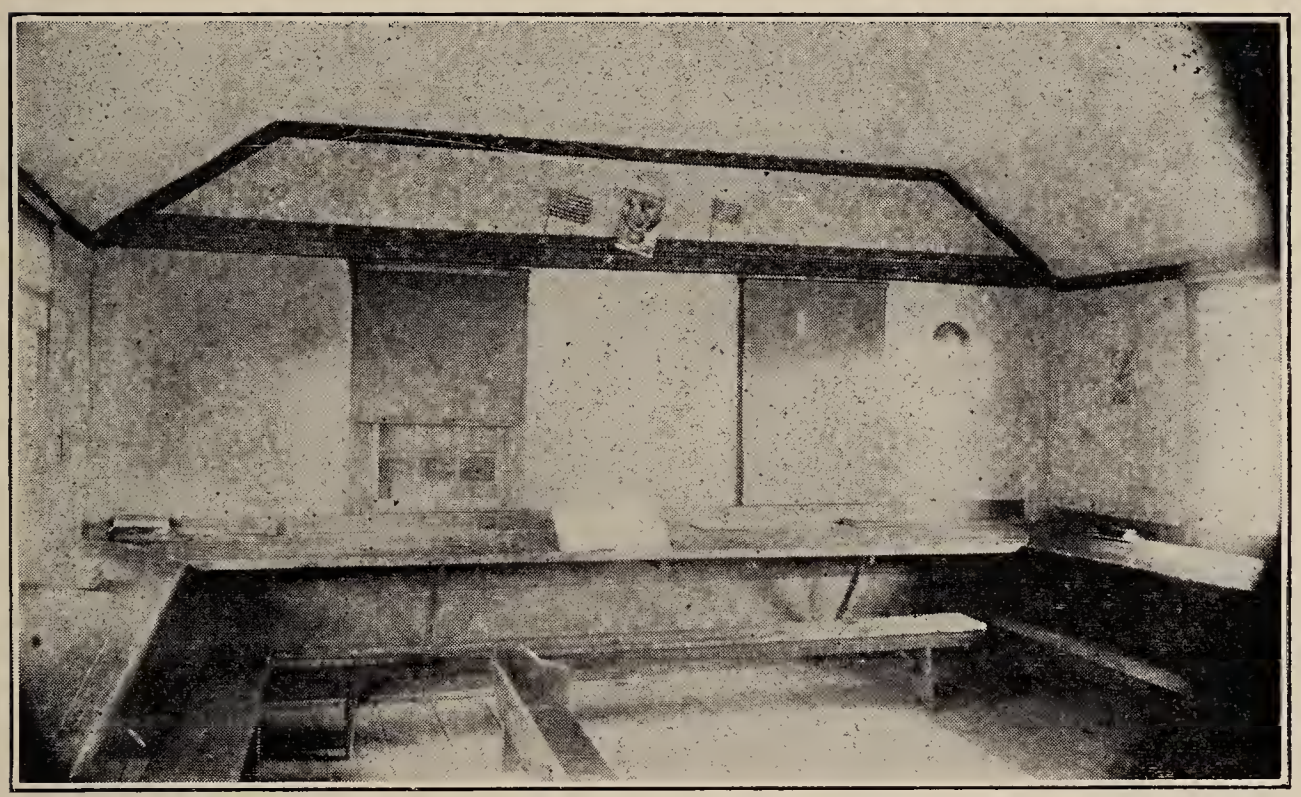
CENTER SCHOOL, PROBABLY BUILT IN 1745

tippets or scarfs, and where the common water pail and dipper rested on a shelf when not in use. Opening out of this entry was a dark room where some of the wood for the fire was stored, although the greater part of it, especially at the beginning of the school year, was piled up around the schoolhouse. From the entry usually a single door opened into the schoolroom.



NORTH SCHOOL, PROBABLY BUILT IN 1745

The teacher's desk and chair were on a high platform on one side of the room. The stove was sometimes in one corner, sometimes in the middle of the room, with the stove-pipe suspended under the ceiling and extending across to the hole in the chimney. The older scholars sat on benches facing the walls. Slanting shelves attached to the walls served as desks. The younger children sat on smaller benches in the middle of the room. They



DISTRICT SCHOOLROOM

had no need of desks. The only blackboard often consisted of a plain board, three or four feet long, which was painted black. It was portable, and when not in use was stowed away in some corner of the room. When in use for a recitation by an arithmetic class, it was hung on a peg or nail in the front of the room, and removed at the close of the recitation.

In 1780 there were five schoolhouses on or near the Main Street. In addition to the three already named — the North, Center, and South schools — there was one called the South Middle School, located on the south side of the South Middle Road to Farmington, just east of the main street, near what is now known as Thomson's Corner. It was sometimes called the Popple School because of a number of poplar trees standing in that locality.

The other, or fifth school, was the Chestnut Hill School. Its location is not certainly known, but it is fair to assume that it was about midway between the North School and the Center School, and on or near a hill. The Committee having charge of that school at one time was John Whitman, Jun. and the house now owned and occupied by Mr. Frederick E. Duffy was for many

years a Whitman homestead. The schoolhouse may have been near the Whitman home. If so, it would be about midway between the North and Center schoolhouses, and on a slight elevation, which might have been called Chestnut Hill. Moreover, Mr. Duffy has informed me that at one time, soon after he bought the farm, in ploughing the field south of his home, he turned up, at a point near the street, a quantity of brick, which seemed to indicate that a small building had some time been located there.

The custom prevailed for many years of employing a male teacher or "master" to keep school for the long winter term of six months and a female teacher or "dame" to keep the school for the summer term of three months. During the long fall and winter term of six months, it was considered necessary to have a man to manage the big boys and girls; but a woman, and sometimes one of the older girls who had been a scholar during the winter term, was considered satisfactory as a teacher of the smaller children during the summer term. There was also a financial consideration, for while male teachers sometimes received as high wages as twenty-five dollars a month, women teachers could be hired at twelve dollars a month. In both cases the teacher often had the duty and privilege of building the fires and sweeping out the schoolroom.

The masters who taught in the winter were sometimes men who pursued other occupations in the summer. Sometimes they were college students who were granted leave of absence for a time in order that they might earn money for the payment of their college expenses. The male teachers often received as a part of their compensation free board, going from home to home, "or boarding round," dividing the time according to the number of scholars in each home. The farmers desired to have the schoolmaster "fare well," and so they often planned to kill their hogs just before the time of his arrival at their homes, that he might have fresh pork to eat. Whittier, in *Snowbound*, has given a fine portraiture of such a schoolmaster boarding in one of the homes of the district where he was teaching.

> Brisk wielder of the birch and rule,
> The master of the district school
> Held at the fire his favored place.
> Its warm glow lit a laughing face,
> Fresh hued and fair, where scarce appeared
> The uncertain prophecy of beard.
> He teased the mitten-blinded cat,
> Played cross-pins on my uncle's hat,
> Sang songs, and told us what befalls
> In classic Dartmouth's College halls.

The following account of expenditures for the winter term of the Prospect Hill School in 1853-4 is a good representation of the usual expenses of the various public schools during that period of their history. The teacher in charge at that time was Gilman H. Tucker from New Hampshire, a student at Dartmouth College on leave of absence. He "boarded round" at the homes of his scholars but spent the week-ends at our home, as my father was the District Committee. Later in life Mr. Tucker served for many years as secretary of the American Book Company in New York City.

Prospect Hill School District, c/o Edwin Hall, Committee, Dr.

1853		
Oct. 28	To cash paid for glass and putty	$0.31
Nov. 3	To cash paid for lock for desk.	.33
Nov. 11	To cash paid for register	.33
Nov. 11	To cash paid for latch for door.	.08
Nov. 11	To cash paid for extra putty	.06
Nov. 11	To cash paid for setting glass and banking schoolhouse	.75
Nov. 14	To cash paid for broom	.16
Nov. 14	To cash paid for nails and matches . .	.06
Dec. 8	To cash paid for 3 cords of wood	10.00
1854		
Feb. 6	To cash paid for ½ cord of wood, . . .	1.50
Feb. 10	To cash paid for Gilman H. Tucker for teaching school 3 months	75.00
		$88.50
	Received of Sherman Steele, treasurer	$88.50

One important matter to be voted upon by the Society each year was the amount of wood each family should furnish for warming the schoolhouse in winter. Usually it was half a cord for each scholar, to be delivered at the schoolhouse within fourteen days of the opening of the first term. A person was appointed by the Society each year to measure and inspect the wood and ascertain if the requirements had been met. It was voted that if any parents failed to furnish wood according to the vote of the Society, their children should be deprived of the benefits of the fire. That may mean that they were not to be permitted to attend school, but it is more probable that they were not to be permitted to stand, or sit near the stove, in the morning, when the schoolroom was cold, as scholars were permitted to do in the winter time. Since the schoolhouses were usually located "by the side of the road" without much consideration or provision for a school yard or playground, the appearance around

and near the school, when the wood had been delivered, must have resembled that of a brickyard with its homely piles of wood.

The official management of the schools was entrusted to two committees elected at each annual meeting of the Society. One was known as the School Committee, usually composed of five members who were evidently the business representatives of the Society. As the members of this committee were often chosen with respect to their residence near to the several schoolhouses, it was probably the duty of each one to have the general care of some particular school.

The other was the Visiting Committee. It was usually composed of the most highly educated men in the community. The minister, the village doctor, and the lawyer, commonly called Judge or Squire, were quite generally members. They were expected to visit each school twice each term. They often went in a body, and when they visited the schools in the northern part of the town, near the Albany Turnpike, took dinner together at one of the five taverns that were located on that road in the stage coach days. At certain times in connection with these visits the minister examined the scholars with respect to questions and answers of the Catechism. This committee also examined teachers with respect to their knowledge and intellectual ability.

The financial support of the schools was generally provided for by a tax or rate imposed on all the inhabitants. Rate makers were appointed at each annual meeting of the Society, and also collectors. In 1736 the rate or tax was one penny on the pound. The next year it was two pence on the pound, and in 1745, when the new schoolhouses were built, it was eight pence on the pound.

In 1737 it was voted to "improve the money granted the Town for wood to the support of schools." In 1738, and for several subsequent years, it was voted that the "money coming to the Society as their part of the ferry shall be by the committee improved to the support of schools." The references to money coming from "wood" and "ferry" are not clear, but there is no reason for believing that any considerable amount was received from these sources. The main dependence for funds was upon the annual tax rate. In the levying and payment of taxes for the support of schools the people registered their appreciation of such advantages for their children in a patriotic and willing spirit.

The method or plan for the management of the public schools by the Ecclesiastical Society was in substance and reality the same as that which now prevails in nearly all of the towns of Connecticut, commonly called the Consolidated or Town Plan. It was continued in the West Division until about 1795. At that time Connecticut had sold her "Western Lands" and had set aside the proceeds of the sale as a School Fund the income from which was to be apportioned annually to the towns of the

State on the basis of the number of children enumerated in each town. For the official management of the public schools and the local apportionment of the funds received from the State, School Societies were organized in all the towns of the State, one in each of the smaller towns and two in each of the larger.

The School Society in the West Division was known as The Second School Society of Hartford. The School Society followed in the main the practice of the Ecclesiastical Society with respect to the official management of the public schools. The earliest records of the annual meetings now in existence are for the year 1823. At that meeting, held October 1st, Jonathan B. Balch was moderator and Timothy P. Perkins, clerk. Truman Stanley, Romanta Seymour, Sylvester Goodman, and Samuel Hurlburt were elected as School Society Committee. Roderick Colton, Joseph Colton, Joseph Elmore, Jr., Solomon Brace, Jedediah W. Mills, Charles Gilbert, and Titus Stevens were elected District Committee. Rev. Nathan Perkins, Roderick Colton, Asahel Porter, George Norton, and Barna Collins were chosen as Visiting Committee, and Moses Goodman, Jr., was elected Treasurer. These are familiar names which appear often in the early records of the community.

The School Societies of the State were authorized to divide their respective territories into local districts for convenience in the management of the public schools. The earliest records of the Second School Society make mention of six local districts, viz: the Center, South, South Middle, West, Northwest, and North Districts. There were changes in the boundary lines from time to time due to request of families who moved from one district to another.

In 1831 Ebenezer Faxon, Solomon S. Flagg, and Thomas Brace were appointed to determine the location of a schoolhouse on Prospect Hill. The site selected was on the west side of the road just north of the highest point, on land of Elisha Wadsworth which was leased to the district for school purposes and was so used until 1885. There is no mention in the records of the Prospect Hill School District prior to 1831. It was a joint district including a portion of the territory of the Hartford Division. The eastern boundary was Woods River, now the north branch of Park River. The southern boundary on the east side of the Prospect Hill Road was near the South Middle Road (Park Street), and on the western side of the southern boundary was the road now known as Fern Street. The western boundary extended from Fern Street about where the Edward W. Morley School is now located north to the northern boundary of the West Division.

In 1837, in accordance with a report made by a committee who had been appointed to determine school district lines, it was voted to lay out a district to be known as the East District

ORIGINAL PROSPECT HILL SCHOOL, BUILT IN 1837.

with boundaries as follows: The west line was to be the Noyes River, now Trout Brook, from the Bishop Bridge (or Fern Street) to the southern line of Joshua Raymond's farm (near Flatbush Avenue). The south line was to extend from that point eastward to the eastern boundary of the West Division (Prospect Avenue). The eastern boundary was to be the eastern line of the West Division to Bishop Road (Fern Street), and the northern boundary Bishop Road to the Noyes River.

In 1840 some of the people residing in the eastern part of the South School District, either because for some reason dissatisfied with prevailing conditions or because of the ambition of some of the residents to obtain positions of official authority, petitioned the General Assembly for the establishment of a new school district in that part of the West Division. In spite of the opposition of other residents of the District, the General Assembly granted their petition, and all that portion of the South District east of a line about where Woodlawn Street is now was

constituted a school district called the Clay Hill District at first but later known as the Southeast School District. A small school house was built at the junction of the South Road, now New Britain Avenue, and the present South Street, and a school was maintained for about ten years, when the district was dissolved.

During the early part of the history of the Society a school was maintained in the eastern part of the town by the Quakers or Friends for the benefit of their own children. They had built a meeting-house and school house on the east side of the road which we now call Quaker Lane, at the point where the Cemetery generally known as the Quaker Cemetery is now located. At the annual meeting of the School Society held in 1825, it was voted "that Simeon Arnold, Eliab Gilbert, Charles Gilbert, Benjamin Gilbert, and Elijah Gilbert belong to the Quaker District." The name Quaker District was probably a familiar designation of the locality in which the Quaker families resided, on or near the road called Quaker Lane, rather than the name of a regular school district.

From the earliest financial records of the School Society now in existence it appears that in 1806 the Society received from the State of Connecticut as its portion of the income of the School Fund $307.99, and from the "rate bills" or the proceeds of a tax of one cent on a dollar levied upon the property owners residing in the district, $109.51. To these amounts should be added the sum of $76.25 already in the treasury, making a total of $493.37 of funds available for the financial support of the schools of the parish.

The record of the disbursement of funds seems to indicate the existence of seven schools. The distribution was made to district committees as follows:

To Joseph Hurlburt	$97.34
To Jesse Porter	83.67
To John Selden	44.62
To Nathan Perkins	92.86
To Solomon Ensign, Jr.	89.91
To Aaron Cadwell	43.28
To Charles Gilbert	14.18
	$465.86

There is no reference to school districts in this record but it is probable that Joseph Hurlburt represented the South District, John Selden the West District, Nathan Perkins the Center District, Aaron Cadwell the Northwest District, Solomon Ensign, Jr., the South Middle District, and Jesse Porter the North District. The amount assigned to Charles Gilbert was the portion of the income of the School Fund to which the Quaker families were entitled in consideration of the number of their children,

and Charles Gilbert was responsible for its application to the financial support of the school which those people were conducting at that time for their own children.

In 1851 a joint committee of the First and Second School Societies of Hartford was appointed to locate the site for a schoolhouse in the East District. Apparently this district, which at that time had been laid out for about fifteen years, had been allowed to use the Quaker school house during a portion or all of that time and had not been able to agree on the selection of a site for a district school house. The joint committee consisted of E. W. Parsons and Samuel Dodd representing the First School Society of Hartford, and Roswell Hurlburt and Edward Stanley representing the Second School Society of the West Division. That joint committee reported, fixing the location of the school building on the east side of Quaker Lane at a point which is now the southeast corner of Quaker Lane and the Boulevard. A school house was built on that site and used by the district school until 1888 when the new building was erected on the corner of Farmington Avenue and Whiting Lane. The old schoolhouse on Quaker Lane was destroyed by fire about that time.

At a meeting of the Second School Society held October 2, 1854, a committee was appointed consisting of Thomas Brace, Solomon S. Flagg, Emerson A. Whiting, George D. Gates, Henry Talcott, Harvey Goodwin, Josiah Raymond, and Zephaniah Alden to examine the acts of the State Legislature with reference to local school districts and report to the Society. These persons represented the different districts in the West Division at that time. The General Assembly was then considering a change in the laws respecting the local official management of the public schools. In 1856 a law was passed abolishing the local school societies. At a meeting of the School Society held October 16, 1854, it was voted that the committee appointed to ascertain respecting the acts of the Legislature report at the next town meeting. West Hartford had been set off from Hartford as a separate town by the General Assembly in May, 1854, and the control of the public schools was transferred from the School Society to the Town.

The last meeting of the School Society of which any record appears was held in 1855. The Society Committee at that time consisted of Chester Faxon, Henry A. King, and Levi Sedgwick. Chester Colton was clerk.

During that period when the Second School Society had the general oversight of the public schools, the local school districts were organized for the purpose of facilitating the operations of the School Society. Gradually the districts assumed more and more authority and jurisdiction respecting the conduct of their respective schools.

The School Society was responsible for the apportionment

of the income of the School Fund assigned for the benefit of the schools, and for the selection of textbooks to be used and the general course of studies to be pursued. It also had authority to examine and approve or reject teachers selected and engaged by the committees of the districts. The examinations were conducted by the Acting School Visitor, who was the official representative of the Board of School Visitors. The examinations were quite general in character, consisting of a few questions on the subjects to be taught, the working of some examples in arithmetic, and the parsing of a sentence or two in grammar. The Acting School Visitor was not generally supposed to be concerned in regard to the character, training, or previous experience of those who had been selected and engaged to serve as teachers by the District Committees.

The District Committees were not always men well qualified for the position. It was customary in some districts to pass the position along and expect every citizen to take his turn. Sometimes the position was sought and secured by those who had in their own families young ladies who wished to teach, or who had other relatives for whom they wished to secure positions. Of course teachers chosen in this way were not always the best qualified for the position, often because of a lack of preparation or of experience. In the East District for a period of over ten years the voters of the district were active and successful in securing from year to year the election of committees who would employ the same excellent teacher whom they desired to retain. In some districts the voters were so little interested in school affairs, except when expenditures were contemplated which involve the levying of a tax, that it was frequently found necessary at the time for holding the annual meeting of the district, to go out to the nearest houses and urge voters to come to the meeting in order that there might be a quorum for the proper transaction of business.

The most unfortunate feature of this period was the inequality of opportunities and advantages for the children of the community. Some districts were willing to pay larger salaries and so secure the services of better teachers. Some districts were willing to pay taxes for providing funds for the upkeep, improvement, and furnishing of the school buildings; other districts pursued the opposite course. While the school laws of the State required that public schools should be kept a certain minimum number of school weeks in each year, there were districts that were interested in providing for a longer school year, and furthermore each district had authority in arranging the school terms and vacations. Often the result was irregularity and a lack of a general system.

A notable case of the unsatisfactory conditions arising from this independence of the school district was found in one instance

where the committee employed a teacher on a low salary, hoping to save money from the funds allotted to his district for current expenses, to be used in the repairing of the school building. When he discovered late in the school year that this was not allowable, he contracted with the teacher, who was receiving six dollars a week for her salary, to continue the school through July and a part of August in order to use up the funds to which the district was entitled for current expenses.

The school districts were slow about making repairs or enlargements of the school houses or the erection of new ones. The Acting School Visitors in their annual reports frequently called attention to the poor condition of some of these buildings or to the fact that they did not furnish adequate accommodations for the large number of scholars in attendance.

The first school building of a more modern or improved type was built in the South School District in 1852. It had two entrances, one for the boys and one for girls, two entries or wardrobes, a basement and a furnace, and a small recitation room opening out of the school-room. Mr. Henry Talcott seems to have been the person to advocate the erection of such a building, and the opposition on the part of the people of the district was so great and so persistent that eighteen district meetings were held, covering a period of ten years, before a vote to erect the building could be secured. This building was

SOUTH SCHOOL
THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN WEST HARTFORD TO HAVE TWO OUTSIDE DOORS AND TWO ENTRIES—BASEMENT AND FURNACE BUILT IN 1852.

used for school purposes until the year 1900. It was later sold to The Vine Hill Farm Company and enlarged and converted into an office and tenement. It is still standing on its original site, but on account of a change in the location of the southern end of West Hartford Main Street made several years ago, it is now on the east side of that street instead of on the west side as formerly.

Quite in contrast with this school district record is that of the district formerly called the Commons District, now known as the Charter Oak Section. The first school building in that section was on the north side of Flatbush Avenue just west of Oakwood Avenue. On the morning of February 14, 1878, the people living in that locality discovered that the school house had been entirely destroyed by fire during the previous night, unbeknown to anyone. A meeting of the voters was immediately called and votes were passed in favor of purchasing a new site on the corner diagonally opposite where the present Charter Oak School is located, of proceeding at once to erect a new building, and of levying a tax sufficient to provide funds for the purchase of the lot and the erection of the school house. John Ahern (father of our present citizen, Dennis F. Ahern), John Cannon, and George W. Pomeroy were appointed a committee to have charge of the purchase of the lot and the erection of the building. That building is now the north room of the Charter Oak School.

In the Center District the use of the old gambrel-roofed brick school house was continued until 1865, long after it ceased to be adequate or suitable for school purposes. During that year a new two-story brick building was erected on a lot purchased of James Cadwell farther north on the same side of the street. At that time and for some years afterwards this was the best school house in the town. The district never knew how much it cost, for the person who served as building committee never made a report, but the district found it necessary to provide funds to the amount of $7,000.00 The upper room of this building was used for a few years for a private school, and from 1872 until 1896 it was occupied by the West Hartford High School.

In 1875 the old wooden building located on the top of Prospect Hill, which had been in use for school purposes for many years, was moved away and converted into a carriage house. A fine substantial brick building was erected on practically the same site a little to the north of the old school house. J. L. Prosser and Sidney Wadsworth were the building committee, and they had pride in erecting a very substantial and well planned building which was used for school purposes until 1885 and then sold and converted into a summer residence. Both of the school buildings on this site were built on land which was leased

of the Wadsworth family and which reverted to that estate when no longer used for school purposes.

In the West District in 1878 the old square, low, brick schoolhouse which had been in use for about seventy-five years gave place to the present building known as the West School. The old building stood just south of the present one and nearer to the roadway. A controversy arose as to the location of the new building. Mr. Adolph C. Sternberg, offered to give the district a large school lot on the east side of the road opposite the old school. Mr. Edward Stanley, who lived west of the schoolhouse, and others were in favor of the new location; but as Mr. Stanley had used for a wood yard, some of the space west of the schoolhouse near the junction of the two roads from Mountain Road westward, some of the other people in the district accused him of being actuated by a desire to secure the removal of the school in order that he might have more room for his wood. But fellow citizens of West Hartford who knew Mr. Stanley best knew full well that he was not actuated by any such motive. The controversy went on for some time, and finally, when it seemed impossible to obtain a majority vote in favor of either site, the district appealed to the Board of School Visitors of Farmington to decide the question, according to a provision of the general statutes. The Farmington School Visitors, without consultation with the School Visitors of West Hartford, as would have been at least courteous, visited the West District and heard the arguments of the voters of the same, and decided in favor of retaining the old site. Mr. Stanley subsequently gave to the district just-claim deed of the land which he had used and to any right or title which he might have acquired by occupancy.

In the North District the people voted in 1884 to reconstruct the schoolhouse which had been in use there for a period of over one hundred twenty-five years. The Committee appointed to have charge of this work consisted of David J. Raynesford, Frank H. Strong, and George Barber. The building was taken down and a new one erected on the same site. A few of the main timbers of the former building were used in the construction of the new building. This schoolhouse has since been enlarged twice, once by adding to the length of the schoolroom on the south and the second time by building an additional room on the north. The building stands on land which, when the first building was erected, was leased for school purposes, to revert to the heirs of the owners of the property in case it ceased to be used in that way. The present school lot of two acres includes land bought of Allen W. Brown a few years ago, and is much larger than the original school yard.

On account of the prevalence of unfavorable conditions the Acting School Visitor of the town in his annual report in 1874 advocated the adoption of the Consolidation Plan for the man-

agement of public schools, which was then in successful operation in quite a number of the towns of the State under the provisions of the General Statutes which permitted towns to abolish local school districts and place the entire control of the public schools in the hands of a Town Committee. This change was advocated in successive school reports for a period of four years before any action in reference to it was taken. Finally the town voted, at a meeting held December 24, 1877, that they were in favor of the consolidated or town plan of public school management but would recommend that no action be taken in the matter until the citizens had had full opportunity to become familiar with the plan and were persuaded with regard to its merits. An investigating committee consisting of one member from each school district was appointed as follows: Emerson A. Whiting, Northwest District; Edgar H. Seymour, East District; Ira Hyde, Charter Oak District; Joseph Davenport, South District; Edward Stanley, West District; H. H. Strong, North District; Seymour L. Steele, Prospect Hill District; Rev. Franklin S. Hatch, Center District.

In the meantime, in response to the personal efforts of one citizen of the town, district meetings had been held and in most of them votes had been passed opposing the proposed plan for consolidation, and in some instances the members of the committee from the districts were authorized to present a remonstrance from their district.

The Committee held several meetings, examined carefully reports and other printed matter respecting the operations and general features of the consolidated plan, made inquiries of residents of towns in which it had been adopted, and finally presented their report to the town as follows on December 24, 1877.

We recommend the passage of the following vote:

Voted, That this Town authorize and direct the Board of School Visitors to employ the teachers for all public schools of the Town.

Voted, That the above take effect on and after Sept. 1, 1878, and remain in force until otherwise ordered.

We do also suggest that at an early date the Town increase the number of School Visitors to nine, so that each district may, if desirable, be represented in the Board.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. A. WHITING, Chairman
F. S. HATCH, Secretary } In behalf of the Committee.

So the matter was deferred for a time; but again in 1884 the people were called upon to vote on the question with the result that it was decided to adopt the consolidated plan, to go into effect according to the provisions of the law in July, 1885.

During the last year under the local school district management there were nine ungraded district schools and a high school.

Ten teachers were in service, the total of whose salaries amounted to $3,915.31. The total enrollment of scholars was 360 and the total expenditure for the support of the schools for the year was $6,660.33.

To carry out the consolidation plan the first step was to have an assessment made of all school property and assets, and to levy a tax sufficient to provide funds for the purchase of the same with allowances for rebates in each school district to correspond to the interests of the tax payers in the same. The assessment of the school property was as follows:

Center School District	$5,000
North School District	1,200
Northwest School District	500
Prospect Hill School District	2,500
East School District	500
South East (Charter Oak) School District	1,200
South School District	2,000
West School District	2,000
	$14,900

The districts had cash on hand to the amount of $332.86 and the district debts amounted to $2816.18.

Note. The estimated value of the public school buildings and land in West Hartford in 1929 was $2,541,863

When some of the wealthy residents of the East School District discovered that they were to be taxed to provide for the purchase of the school property of all the districts but would have but scant rebates because of the low value of the old schoolhouse in their district, they petitioned for the holding of a town meeting to reconsider the vote in favor of consolidation and a meeting was called, but the action taken at that meeting did not affect the vote already passed in favor of consolidation.

The first members of the Town School Committee to serve under the consolidated plan were as follows: Wales L. Andrews, William H. Hall, Morgan Goodwin, Rev. James W. Hyde, Adolph C. Sternberg, T. Belknap Beach, Henry Talcott, Emerson A. Whiting, George Barber. Henry Talcott was elected Chairman, T. Belknap Beach Secretary, and Adolph C. Sternberg Acting School Visitor.

One of the first steps taken by the committee in the line of improving the condition and operations of the public schools was the adoption of a calendar providing for uniform terms of schools and vacations. Steps were also taken with regard to the better equalization of the salaries of the teachers and a plan for the proper gradation of the scholars was introduced. Kindergartens were opened in the Elmwood Chapel and on the second floor of Mr. Lewis T. Fenn's carriage house. The division of the scholars in the larger schools into primary, intermediate, and grammar departments was undertaken.

The need of additional accommodations led to the erection by the town of the East School building on Whiting Lane in 1888. This was at first opened as a two-room building, no use being made of the second floor for school purposes. At a later period this floor was divided into two rooms, and still later an addition was built in the rear with provision for three rooms. The next building to be erected was at Elmwood in 1900. This was a brick building of four rooms attached to the front of a wooden building of two rooms which had been built by the South School District a few years earlier. The Center School building was erected in 1910 and the Seymour school building in 1915. Each of these buildings contained eight class-rooms.

Mr. Adolph C. Sternberg continued to serve as Acting School Visitor until 1896. He devoted a large amount of time and attention to the duties of his position, endeavoring and successfully to promote a higher degree of efficiency in the work. In 1889 he introduced instruction in singing as a new feature in the public schools, securing the services of Prof. Graham of Hartford,who gave occasional lessons in some of the larger schools. In 1891, Mrs. J. L. Mallory, now Mrs. T. M. Hodgdon, was employed as a regular instructor in music, and thus this became a recognized and regular feature of public school instruction which has been continued and enlarged from time to time until now West Hartford schools are in the forefront among the public schools of the State. This feature embraces a brass band, an orchestra, and glee clubs. A more detailed account of public instruction in music is given in a later section.

In 1896 Mr. Sternberg felt that the schools of the town needed a larger amount of attention and skilled supervision than he could give to them, and with the consent of the School Committee he arranged with Prof. Charles D. Hine, at that time Secretary of the State Board of Education, to assume the supervision. Secretary Hine rendered efficient service until January, 1897, when he refused to continue because of opposition to this arrangement which had developed in connection with the annual town meeting held in October, 1896. The supervision of the schools then devolved upon William H. Hall, Chairman of the Town School Committee, by action of that committee.

At the town meeting held in October 1897, it was voted to employ a supervisor of schools to devote his entire time to the duties of the position and to receive a salary of $1,000 per annum. Mr. Hall was appointed by the School Committee to this position, in which he continued to serve for twenty-five years, or until September, 1922, when he signified his desire to be released and the School Committee appointed Lloyd H. Bugbee, Principal of the High School, as his successor. During the latter part of Mr. Hall's term of service the title of the office was changed from Supervisor to Superintendent of Schools. At the time of Mr.

Hall's retirement from the position of Superintendent in September, 1922, he had completed fifty years of official service in connection with the public schools of his native town, serving consecutively as Teacher, Principal, Acting School Visitor, Secretary of the Board of School Visitors, Chairman of that Board, Supervisor and Superintendent of Schools. When he retired, the School Board appointed him Associate Superintendent, or Superintendent Emeritus.

Mr. Bugbee as Superintendent has rendered very efficient service, developing the public school system of the town on a broad, scientific basis commensurate with the rapidly increasing population and the modern and most progressive plans and methods of organization and administration.

The High School. Under the title Private Schools some account is given of The West Hartford Academy, which for a period prior to 1865 provided for the education of some of the older boys and girls of the town who wished to pursue their studies beyond the opportunities afforded in the district schools. The Academy was not strictly a public school in the sense that it was provided and conducted by the town for the benefit of those who attended it, without expense for tuition. The first movement for the opening of a public high school was made in 1872. In the summer of that year there were forty or more young people in West Hartford who had completed the work of the ungraded district public schools and were desirous of an opportunity for further study. The Board of School Visitors, in recognition of the condition, recommended to the citizens of the town in the annual town meeting held in October of that year that a school of a higher grade be opened, and a vote was passed authorizing the Board to open such a school at their discretion for the year 1872-3.

The Board arranged with the Committee of the Center School District, Mr. Samuel Whitman, for the rental of a room on the second floor of the district schoolhouse on North Main Street, and on December 2, 1872, the school was opened with thirty-eight scholars, ranging in age from twelve to twenty-one years, who had successfully passed an examination conducted by Mr. Henry Talcott, Acting School Visitor. Mr. William H. Hall, who was serving as the teacher of the Center District School, was engaged as principal and sole teacher. The total expense for maintenance for the first year was $584.50, consisting of the following items: room rent, $100; supplies, $53.90; salary of principal, $430.60. The studies pursued by the scholars consisted of advanced work in the so-called common branches, also bookkeeping, algebra, physical geography, and Latin. Music was taught in weekly lessons by a special teacher. There were weekly exercises in composition, declamation, and debates.

In 1884, Rev. James W. Hyde, Rector of St. James Church, who was the Acting School Visitor, prepared a four years' course of study. He was assisted in this work by Charles M. Andrews, the principal at that time of the High School. The first scholars to complete the work of this course of study were Miss Amalia A. B. Sternberg (now Mrs. George Traut of New Britain), and Miss S. Louise Brannon, who was graduated in 1887. With two exceptions there have been graduates to receive diplomas every year since 1887, and in the later years large numbers of graduates.

For several years after the opening of the school, its continuance from year to year was dependent upon a vote by the citizens in the annual town meeting held in October. Some citizens regarded the school as a doubtful experiment. Others regarded it as an expensive luxury, not required by the laws of the state. Finally, in one of the annual town meetings, a vote was passed authorizing the Board of School Visitors to continue the school until further notice. Further notice has never been given.

CENTER SCHOOL, BUILT IN 1865. FIRST HIGH SCHOOL WAS HELD HERE ON THE SECOND FLOOR, 1872-1896

From December, 1872, until September, 1896, the school continued to occupy the upper room of the Center District School building, the Center District School occupying the first floor. In 1895 the matter of providing a new and larger building was discussed in town meetings and elsewhere. The question of a suitable site awakened considerable opposition. Residents on West Hartford Main Street were strongly opposed to the location of a building anywhere near their residences, and so site after site proposed by the Board of School Visitors was rejected. Finally Mr. William Hall, Chairman of the Board, suggested the purchase of the Seyms property on South Main Street, and the location of the new building on the high ground in the eastern

AIRPLANE VIEW OF HIGH SCHOOL AND CENTER SCHOOL

part of that property. The price for which it could have been purchased was $6,000. That proposition was strongly opposed by a few influential citizens, but at a subsequent town meeting a vote was passed authorizing the purchase of the eastern portion of the property for $5,000. Seyms Street and School Street (now Raymond Road) were opened, and in 1896 a building was erected on the corner of these streets at a cost of $20,000. The High School and the Center School were transferred to this building in September, 1896, and occupied it conjointly until September, 1910.

Therefore, from December, 1872, until September, 1910, a period of nearly thirty-eight years, the High School did not have

a home of its own, and when, in 1910, it had the use of the entire building on the corner of Seyms Street and Raymond Road, the accommodations were quite inadequate for its needs. An effort was made in 1910 to secure a vote in town meeting for the erection of a new building for the High School, leaving the old building for the use of the Center School. This effort failed, but the friends of the High School did not cease to advocate the erection of a new building, until in 1923 a vote was secured for the purchase of additional land for a site, in connection with the property already owned by the Town, and for the erection of the present William H. Hall High School building, which was first occupied in September, 1924.

In connection with the public exercises in dedication of the new High School, Professor Curtis M. Geer, a member of the School Board, made an address in which he gave the reasons for the selection by the School Board of the name for the school.

He said: "It has been the custom for many years to give special names to public school buildings. This custom began when some man of wealth gave money for the erection of a building and the building was named in his honor. The next step was in giving the name of some distinguished man to the building, such as the Washington High School. This was done in order to honor the person whose name the school bore and also as an inspiration to the pupils in that school. A third stage was the naming of the school for some man who had lived in the community and who had been noted in his distinguished service to that community. We have as an illustration of this the Henry Barnard School and the Thomas Snell Weaver High School in Hartford.

"The citizens of this town had the problem of selecting the name of some man for our high school and there were, as it seems to me, three qualifications which such a man should possess.

"First, he should be a man who had long identified himself with the things that were best in the community, one who had interested himself in all that was good in the political and religious life of his town.

"Second, he should be one who had long been identified with the educational life of the community, because the high school is an educational institution.

"Third, he should be one who loves children, with a heart big enough to take in all the children in our community, of every race and color.

"We have a man who fulfills all these requirements and others as well. That man is William H. Hall."

The following named persons have served as Principals of the High School: William H. Hall, 1872-5; Charles W. Robbins, 1875-8; Fred C. Williams, 1878-80; Henry C. Meyer, 1880-3; Henry W. Lamb, 1883-4; Charles M. Andrews, 1884-6; George

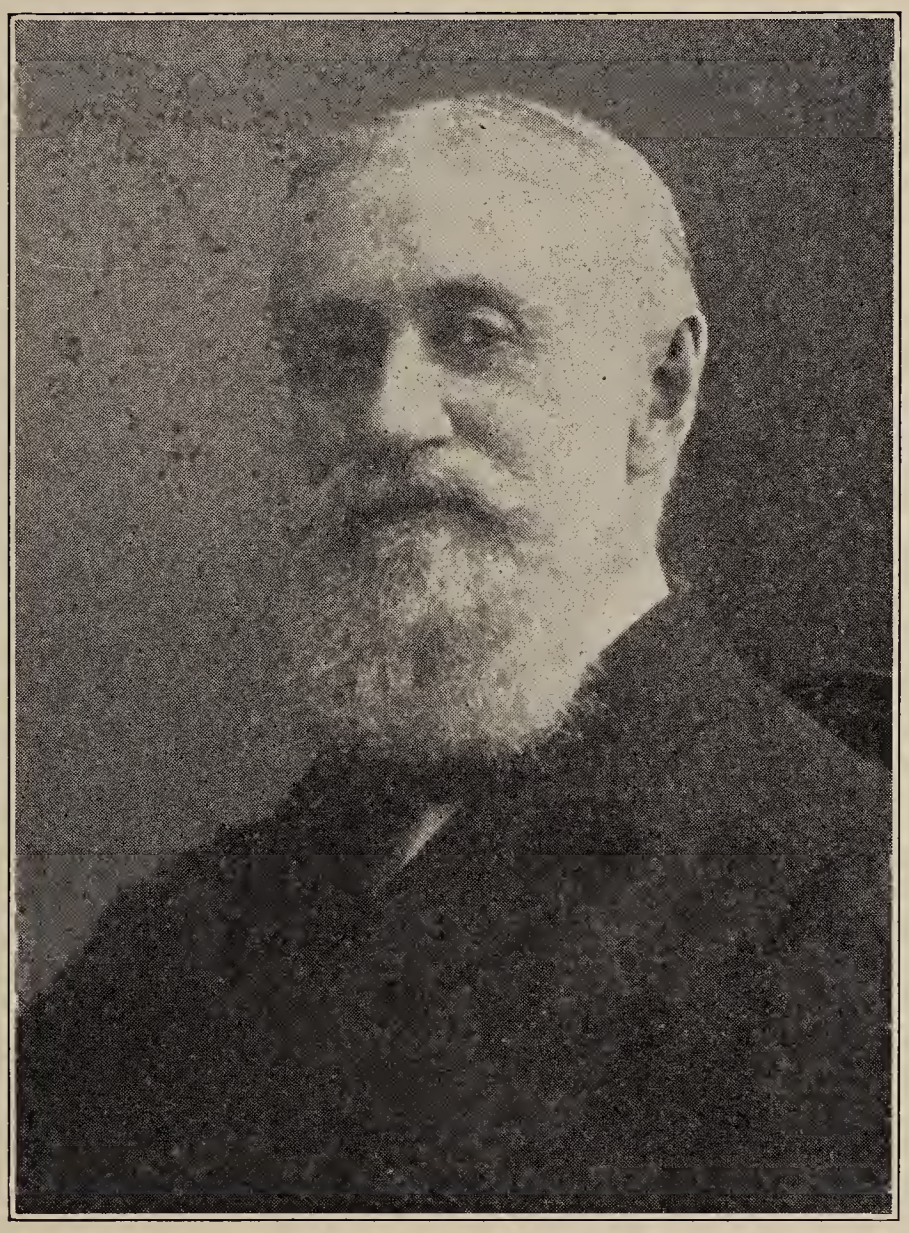
E. Beers, 1886-7; James R. Tucker, 1887-8; Roderick W. Hine, 1888-9; Alfred F. Howes, 1889-97; John H. Peck, 1897-1906; Lawrence H. Parker, 1906-7; Walter B. Spencer, 1907-17; Lloyd H. Bugbee, 1917-22; Raymond W. Harriman, 1922.

LLOYD H. BUGBEE

An assistant to the principal was first employed in 1884. Miss Elizabeth S. Elmer of West Hartford was the first to occupy that position. She devoted a portion of her time to teaching classes of the highest grade in the Center Grammar School.

The Junior High School. In 1914 Superintendent Hall in his annual report called attention at some length to the desirability of a reorganization of the school system of the town by the introduction of a junior high school division between the grammar school grades and the high school, this division to include the seventh and eighth grades of the grammar schools and the freshman class of the high school as the schools were then organized. This system was sometimes called, in communities where it was in operation, the six — three — three system.

This reorganization of the West Hartford public school system was finally brought about in 1922. The *Alfred Plant Junior High School was opened in a new building bearing that name located on Whiting Lane adjacent to the East School building, and soon after the **James Talcott Junior High School was



JAMES TALCOTT

opened in a new building bearing that name, located on South Quaker Lane at Elmwood. Mr. Lloyd H. Bugbee, at that time Principal of the West Hartford High School, rendered very helpful and efficient service in the planning for the reorganization of

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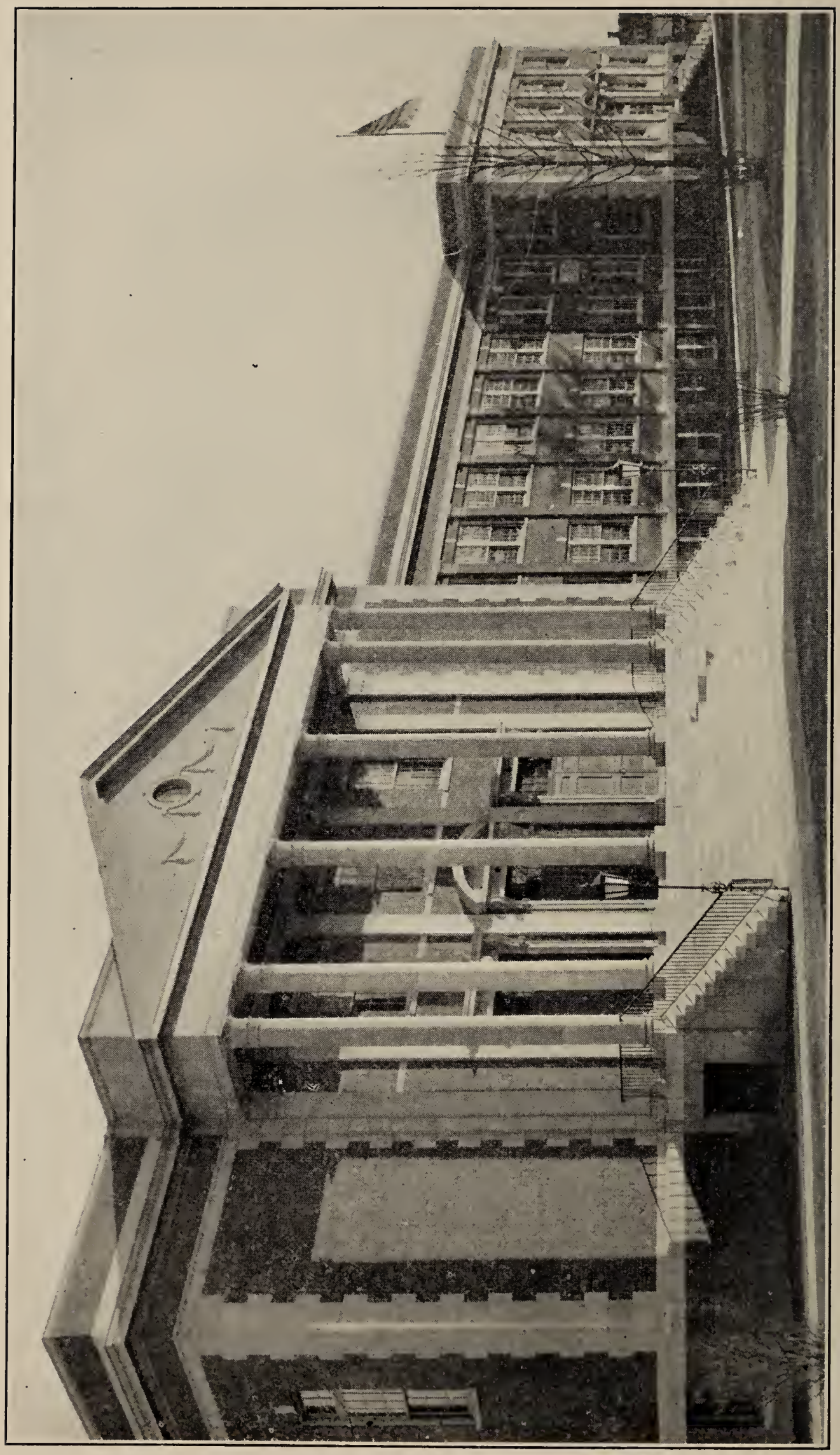
*Named for Alfred Plant, for several years the efficient Secretary of the Town School Committee, whose death occurred just prior to the erection of the building.

**Named for James Talcott, a native of West Hartford, for many years a successful business man of New York city, who had been the inheritor and owner of the site, and whose son, Frederick Talcott, made a liberal contribution for the establishment of the school on that property.



WILLIAM H. HALL HIGH SCHOOL

the public school system and the organization of the Junior High Division.

At the present time a third Junior High School known as the Center Junior High School is in operation in the William H. Hall High School building, but will be removed to a building to be erected in the near future on Park Road between West Hartford Main Street and Mountain Road.

T. BELKNAP BEACH

The school year 1922-3, which was the first year of Mr. Bugbee's administration as superintendent, marked a decided advance and improvement in the organization and development of the public school system. The opening of the new High School building at that time, and the appointment of an elementary supervisor to have the general oversight of the elementary schools, provided a fine opportunity for a careful and wise readjustment of the entire school system of the town.

A further development was accomplished in 1926 when the

Beach Park Kindergarten and Primary School was opened, and a new, modern, and scientific plan of instruction and training for the youngest children was introduced, under the efficient and wise direction of Miss Rose J. Wathley, elementary supervisor. The school derives its name from Mr. T. Belknap Beach, who gave the spacious lot on which the school was built and also a large and beautiful grove or park which adjoins the school grounds on the south. It commemorates his public-spirited generosity and his continued interest in the public schools, in behalf of which he rendered efficient service for several years as clerk of the School Board.

BEACH PARK KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The fine large buildings of most modern construction and equipment which within a few years have been built under the direction of the school board on Fern Street and at Elmwood, and the plans which have been formulated for additional buildings and for new school sites of ample proportion with provisions for extensive playgrounds, indicate clearly the wise and progressive policy of the superintendent and the school board and of the citizens of the town, in providing the best educational advantages for the children of the community now and in future years.

Public Instruction in Music. In the earlier years of the history of West Hartford the only opportunity afforded for

public instruction in music was through the weekly singing schools conducted for a time in the autumn or early winter by itinerant "singing masters" who went from community to community giving instruction and drill in singing. It was not a well organized system or plan, for the work was not continuous from year to year as a rule, and was sometimes omitted entirely. These singing schools afforded the young people fine opportunities for social enjoyment, however, and as such opportunities were of rare occurrence in the community, they were fully improved, but did not contribute to the efficiency and value of the musical teaching and training.

The teaching of music was not required in the public schools. The teachers who went to the home of the Acting School Visitor to pass an examination in order to determine their fitness for the position for which they were applicants were required to read and spell, and to parse a sentence in grammar, but not to sing. They were, however, accustomed to have some singing in connection with the devotional exercises at the opening of the daily session, and on special occasions.

The introduction of regular instruction in music in the public schools of West Hartford was made in 1889 by A. C. Sternberg, who was at that time the Acting School Visitor. The story of its introduction and development from that date as presented in the annual school report for the school year 1927-1928 is herewith quoted as follows:

In his annual report for the school year 1885-6 Acting School Visitor Adolph C. Sternberg made the following recommendation with respect to the introduction of instruction in vocal music, in the public schools of West Hartford:—

"It is urgently desired that the people of West Hartford will evince anew their proved generosity to promote the educational work in our midst and allow the expenditure of an amount necessary for this important branch of study which, it may be stated, is now being introduced in many progressive towns of the state."

This appeal elicited no official response, but evidently it attracted the attention of some of the people, for in his report for the school year 1887-8 Mr. Sternberg presented the following statement: "I have been urged repeatedly by some of our best people to add to the studies that of vocal music. Two years ago the town was asked to make an appropriation to this end —".

In September 1889 the Board of School Visitors appointed Timothy Sedgwick, one of its members, to present to the annual

town meeting a request for such an appropriation. No action was taken at the meeting. In his report for the school year 1889-90, Mr. Sternberg stated that Prof. Graham of Hartford had given instruction in vocal music in our public schools with commendable success and that the expense had been provided for by private subscriptions.

This patriotic action on the part of Mr. Sternberg and his cooperators evidently aroused the citizens of the town to action, for at the town meeting held in October 1890 it was voted to make an appropriation of $10.00 per week to provide for instruction in vocal music in the public schools.

Mr. Graham continued his work for another year, coming out from Hartford for his visits to the schools.

Beginning in September 1891 Mrs. J. L. Mallory (now Mrs. T. M. Hodgdon) became the regular instructor in vocal music, devoting time and attention to weekly visits and instruction in all of the schools and virtually establishing, in an efficient and successful way, instruction in vocal music as an officially and publicly recognized part of the work of the public schools. Mrs. Mallory continued her work very satisfactorily for two years, declining a reappointment. She was succeeded by Miss Francesca Sternberg, daughter of Mr. A. C. Sternberg, who carried on the work successfully for two years.

In 1896 the School Committee engaged Prof. Lewis W. Harvey to serve as supervisor of music in the West Hartford schools. He continued to serve in that capacity for twelve years.

Mrs. Mallory and Miss Sternberg had in connection with their regular work devoted considerable attention to drilling the pupils for participation in public exercises which were held each year illustrating the prominent features of the work in the schools. Prof. Harvey introduced and developed the plan of public musical concerts intended to demonstrate the progress and proficiency of the pupils in singing — as well as to interest the people of the community in this work of the schools.

Miss Helen L. Webb succeeded Prof. Harvey, serving only one year, subsequently taking up the same line of work in the Waterbury public schools.

James D. Price served efficiently as Supervisor of Music in our schools for five years. Ralph A. Peters and Frederick B. Hill had brief terms of service. Keith C. Brown rendered

ARTIST'S SKETCH OF PROPOSED MODERNISTIC SCHOOL

excellent service for four years and Frank C. Goodale was Supervisor for two years.

With the exception of Miss Webb all these persons who served subsequently to Miss Sternberg divided their time between service rendered here and in other communities.

Following the services of Frank C. Goodale, Albert Cullum acted as Supervisor and Director of Music in the schools of the town from September 1922 to September 1924. His work was well done, and he left us to go to New York as director of instrumental instruction. Mr. Dana S. Merriman then took over the work and inaugurated an idea which had been discussed with the former supervisor; namely, the presentation of a Concert Course by nationally known artists to the Junior and Senior High Schools without any charge. Mr. Merriman served from September 1924 to October 15, 1925. He left us to become director of the Travelers Broadcasting Studio at Hartford, Connecticut. The services of Mr. Mark A. Davis, formerly director of music in the Greenfield, Mass., public schools, were then secured. He has carried out with marked success the wonderful work that has been inaugurated by his predecessors. The growth and development of the instrumental and various club activities have been phenomonal.

Since this report was printed the supervising corps having direction of musical instruction has been increased by the appointment of Miss Gladys Hill, Miss Ruth Wolcott, Mr. Henry Carter, and Mr. Timothy C. Sheehan.

The public school buildings erected in West Hartford during the period from 1895 to 1922, although superior to all former school buildings in the town, were all practically of the same general design and style of architecture.

Since the latter date, due to the fine artistic and educational conception of Superintendent Lloyd H. Bugbee in cooperation with architect William T. Marchant and Russell F. Booker, the school buildings which have been designed and erected show marked improvement and pleasing variety in design.

The illustration at the head of this section represents a Junior High and Elementary School building of still different type which it is proposed to build on Sedgwick Road, and it is hoped will be named in honor of Prof. William Thompson Sedgwick, a distinguished native of West Hartford.

II. Private Schools

The old Academy. The educational advantages afforded to the young people of West Hartford through the years have not been confined to the public schools. Rev. Dr. Nathan Perkins, pastor of the Congregational Church from 1772 to 1838, during that period taught one hundred young men in his home, now the rectory of St. James Episcopal Church, preparatory to their entrance to college. While his home was not known as a school, it was indeed a veritable "seat of learning" of great advantage to the young men of the community who were in pursuit of an education.

An academy or school of a higher order than the district schools was opened in West Hartford at a date not definitely known. In 1840, however, it was referred to as "the old academy." The building was located on South Main Street at a point near the present residence of Charles H. Ellsworth. After it ceased to be used for school purposes, it was moved by Frederick Brace to Farmington Avenue and converted into a dwelling house located where Dale Street is now. When Dale Street was opened, this house was moved to Whitman Avenue and is now a double tenement at Nos. 30-32 Whitman Avenue. Probably it still retains some of the material of the old school building.

In 1840 a new Academy Association was formed. The proprietors of the old Association were allowed shares of stock in consideration of their holdings in the former association, and other public spirited citizens joined in the enterprise. The shares were sold at $12.00 each, and one hundred were issued. The list of proprietors with the number of shares owned by each one was as follows:

Shares		Shares	
3	Rev. E. W. Andrews	1	Hiram Wells
8	Josiah W. Griswold	1	George Flagg
3	Elihu Olmsted	1	Levi Sedgwick,
1	Michael Jennings	1	Morgan Goodwin
8	Samuel Whitman	1	Elihu Barber
3	Thomas Brace	2	Samuel Whiting
2	Roderick Colton	3	S. H. Huntington
1	Horace Stanley	1	Benjamin Gilbert
1	Frederick Colton	1	Chester Griswold
1	David Selden	1	Amos S. Braman
2	George D. Gates	1	H. G. Webster
3	William Sedgwick	2	John Porter
1	Amos Hurlburt	2	Harvey Arnold
2	Truman Stanley	1	Mason Seymour
1	Hezekiah Selden	1	Joshua Raymond
2	Gideon Deming	1	John Flagg

1	Henry Mix	1	Augustus Flagg
1	Amaziah Sawtell	1	W. A. Fuller
1	Elliott Millard	1	Timothy Sedgwick
1	David White	1	W. and E. Selden
1	Solomon Porter	1	Albert W. Butler
5	Thomas K. Brace	1	Pollard Merrils, Jr.
1	Charles Seymour	1	Walter Deming
1	John Ellsworth	1	J. W. Mills
1	Childs Goodman	1	Henry Talcott
1	Artemas Knight	1	Chester Francis
1	Pollard Merrils	1	R. G. H. Cone
1	Josiah T. Olmsted	2	Thomas S. Williams
1	Benjamin Bishop	1	Charles Gilbert
1	Allen S. Griswold	1	Samuel Hurlburt
1	Daniel L. Sisson	1	William Knight
1	Henry Goodman	1	S. F. Cone
1	Roswell Hurlburt	2	Solomon S. Flagg
1	George Butler	1	Benjamin Bissell
1	Rev. G. I. Wood	1	Thomas O. Goodwin
1	Rev. P. H. Huntington	1	Simeon Arnold
1	Edward Stanley		

The new Academy building was erected on the east side of Main Street opposite Goodman Park, on a small lot which afforded no opportunities for a playground. It was a two-story building with a schoolroom on each floor. It had a front porch with large, tall, circular pillars like those on the front of the Congregational Church, but smaller. On the west or front end of the roof was a belfry with a bell. This building was used for school purposes until about 1865. After that date it was occupied for a time by Wyllys Lodge. The Congregational Church held their Friday evening prayer meetings in the lower room for some time, and the West Hartford Lyceum held meetings there at one time. St. James Episcopal Church, before it had a church building, held services in the Academy on Sunday. Some years ago Mr. William A. Burr purchased the property and converted the building into a dwelling house for two families. It is still used for that purpose, being the house occupied for many years by the families of Dr. Edwin H. Munger and Clarence Root.

The Academy was for a time under the leadership of a Prof. Sawyer, who conducted it as a boarding school which was well patronized, with many scholars from other communities in attendance. One of the teachers who had charge at a later period was Orange Judd, who afterwards became editor and proprietor of *The American Agriculturist*, a weekly paper published in New York. David L. Williams of East Hartford was for several years the beloved and efficient principal. Rev. J. W. Barnhart succeeded Mr. Williams. He married Miss Emma King, a daughter of Henry A. King and sister of the late James A. King.

When the Center School District built its new brick building, still standing near the residence of Henry C. Whitman, a school of a higher grade corresponding in character to an academy was maintained for a few years in the upper room of that building.

At one time during the period when the Academy was in operation, Mr. James W. Storey maintained a boys' school in his home on South Main Street. He lived in the house later known as the Selden House, which was recently moved to Burr Street when the site for the William H. Hall High School was prepared. Mr. Storey's school was sometimes spoken of as a military school, although probably not strictly of that order. It may have included some of the features of military training. At a still later period Miss Sarah Gleason conducted a successful day school for girls in the Mills Homestead on New Britain Avenue, which was in the Revolutionary days the home of Sarah Whitman Hooker. Miss Gleason was considered a very successful teacher. Rev. John D. Hull, who had long been a successful leader and teacher in work for boys, for a few years conducted a small boys' boarding school in his home, now the residence of Mr. Frederick Bishop on Farmington Avenue.

None of these schools with the exception of the Academy could properly be called established local educational institutions, although they made contributions to the educational advantages and reputation of the community. At the present time there are in West Hartford private schools of a more permanent character with well established reputations which may be considered as in reality and in a more vital way features of the community spirit and life.

American School for the Deaf. One of the educational institutions of which West Hartford has reason to be proud is the American School for the Deaf, the oldest school for the education of the deaf in the United States. It was originally called the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb. It was founded in Hartford in 1817, and was situated on the avenue which has been called Asylum Avenue ever since. In 1919 the school sold its property on Asylum Avenue to the Hartford Fire Insurance Company and established a new plant on a tract of ninety-eight acres on North Main Street in West Hartford. The buildings were completed in 1922.

The Board of Directors, of which Professor Henry A. Perkins of Trinity College is president, includes some of the leading citizens of Hartford. A number of its faculty are teachers of long experience and understand fully the needs of deaf boys and girls. The oral method is used in teaching the children, but those making no progress are taught by any method found necessary in order to give them an education. Pupils are admitted at five years of age and the course of study is divided into twelve

grades. The subjects taught are the same as those taught in the public schools in the first eight grades. A few high school subjects are taught to those taking the preparatory course for Gallaudet College, Washington, D. C. Trades also are taught, including printing, carpentry, bookbinding, chair-caning, painting, sewing, dressmaking, cooking, and housework. The majority of the pupils come from Connecticut, but in 1927 over fifty scholars were enrolled from Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

The school building and Principal's house represented in the picture are located on a high ridge of land several hundred feet back from North Main Street, commanding a fine view of the surrounding country, and attracting the attention of those who pass through that section of the town.

The Kingswood School. Kingswood School is a country day school for boys, preparatory to college. In the summer of 1916 a small group of citizens invited the present headmaster, Mr. George R. H. Nicholson, to organize such a school in Hartford. The founders were Doctor M. W. Jacobus, Mrs. James Goodwin, Messrs. Richard M. Bissell, Louis F. Butler, Charles P. Cooley, Francis R. Cooley, Walter L. Goodwin, and Arthur L. Shipman. They proposed to make available for boys of the city and neighborhood the type of secondary education represented by the best boarding schools, but at much less cost, and without removing them from home influences or the knowledge of their local obligations as citizens.

The growth of the school through years of war and financial stress clearly demonstrated the need and the wisdom of such a plan. The school opened at 274 Farmington Avenue with two masters and six pupils. At the end of the first year thirty-two pupils were enrolled, and this number was increased to forty-two in the second year. This compelled a change of premises, and the Mark Twain house, 351 Farmington Avenue, was rented and fitted to receive the school in the fall of 1918. In 1919 the founders, who up to that time had acted as guarantors, were persuaded of the necessity of a permanent plant. They incorporated under the name of Kingswood Incorporated. Dr. and Mrs. M. W. Jacobus donated a tract of twenty acres of land ideally located in West Hartford, on condition that sufficient money was raised to erect the buildings. Mr. Edwin S. Dodge was chosen architect, and the buildings were ready to receive the school in the fall of 1922. The name of the corporation was changed to Kingswood Academy Incorporated, and the school took up its present quarters with an enrollment of eighty-five students and a faculty of eleven masters. The plant contained four classroom houses, each holding two classrooms, a special purpose room, and two

apartments for unmarried teachers; and a main building holding a dining hall, an auditorium (used at present for a gymnasium), an apartment for the headmaster, and quarters for the domestic staff.

The policy of the school is controlled by a corporation consisting of all persons who have contributed not less than $100 to the school funds. The corporation functions through a board of not less than 15 and not more than 22 trustees, elected for varying terms, and in such a way that the Council of the Parents' Association and the families of boys in the school are fully represented. The spirit and purpose of the school are well expressed in mottos of Mr. Nicholson's: "First of all the Boy." "Not boys, but the boy." "The only necessary factor is the boy." "At Kingswood nothing is essential unless it has some direct bearing on the boy."

The Oxford School. The Oxford School is a privately owned institution founded by Miss Myra Billings and Miss Mary Martin in September, 1909, as a boarding school for girls, at 232-236 North Oxford Street. Miss Billings remained with the school for two years and then returned to normal school training work, and Miss Martin assumed the entire control of the School.

Very soon, it was obliged to give up the boarding department in order to accommodate the number of day pupils who were seeking admittance. In 1919 it had so outgrown its quarters that it was moved to the Ensworth place at 510 Farmington Avenue, where it was conducted along the lines of the country day school.

During the school year of 1923-24, the patrons formed the Oxford League for the purpose of advancing the interests of the School in every possible way. At that time Miss Ruth Guernsey, A.B., M.A., of New York, became the associate principal. At the close of the year,the Oxford League assisted in changing the location of the School to its present quarters at 695 Prospect Avenue.

Its sessions are from 9:40 o'clock in the morning to 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

Of the one hundred and seventy pupils which it now enrolls, fifty-eight are in the high school department, where emphasis is placed upon preparation for college. Boys are taken in the pre-primary department and are kept till the end of the fourth grade, when they are ready for Kingswood or the public schools.

Pre-primary work, supervised outdoor play, music with supervised practice periods, the Saturday morning and Wednesday afternoon art classes, and spoken French are strong features of the school.

The Margaret Laidlaw School. The Margaret Laidlaw School, opened as The Children's House, has been one of the unique institutions of West Hartford for sixteen years. It is a resident and day school. Miss Margaret C. Laidlaw, who founded it, had previously been supervisor of the kindergarten department of the South School district in Hartford, and before that had been engaged in similar work in Rochester, N. Y., for ten years.

When she came to West Hartford in 1912, she saw the opportunities and the need for pre-school work, and several interested families encouraged her in establishing a place for this purpose. Since then more than 300 children have received care and training there, and The Children's House has not only become a landmark to the citizens of the town, but its fame has extended to other states. Its work has interested child psychologists, school authorities, and physicians.

To many families, The Children's House has been a godsend in time of stress, because children could be left in safe keeping there. To the children themselves the institution has been a paradise for play and development. Some early pupils are now married and have children of their own, to whom the joys and benefits derived from the school will be handed down. Many others, now grown up, have embarked upon careers as musicians, actresses, and teachers. Nearly all have kept in touch with Miss Laidlaw year in and year out, with happy reminders of childhood days spent in an environment of sunshine, play, idealistic training, and development of expression. It is an interesting fact also that many former pupils have taken honors in higher grades, high schools, and other educational institutions.

Intended only for pre-school work at the start, The Children's House has extended training to the grades as needed, supplementing the usual school work with special teaching of French, music, and dancing.

The school is pleasantly located in a large frame building at No. 1179 Farmington Avenue, surrounded by porches, trees, and a playground.

The Westford School. In September, 1925, Miss Loreta D. Barto, a graduate of the Beechwood School of Jenkintown, Penn., opened a school for children in the Masonic Temple on South Main Street. She was of the opinion that in such a rapidly growing community as West Hartford there was an opportunity for a school for children who were too young to attend the public schools. She had as an associate teacher Miss Estelle Reed. Nineteen children were enrolled the first year. During the following year, the school was continued in the same building with some increase in attendance.

In the autumn of 1927 the school was opened in a new building located on Newport Avenue, purchased for the use of the school as a permanent home. At that time Miss Helen Dixon became associated with Miss Barto in the work of the school, succeeding Miss Reed. Twenty-two children were enrolled and the instruction and training included kindergarten work and grades one and two. There is a desire and purpose on the part of Miss Barto and her assistant: "To provide an environment conducive to the highest type of social development and to stress in every situation, helpfulness, courtesy, thoughtfulness, kindness, unselfishness, and a spirit of cooperation." This expresses the high purpose which is destined to make this school more and more an important feature in the educational life of the community.

Miss Barto is a native of West Hartford, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Barto.

Saint Augustine's Novitiate and Normal School. This property, formerly the Tuohey farm, was purchased by the Sisters of Mercy in 1877. They built a boys' preparatory school which was carried on with admirable success until 1912, when the growth of the community necessitated the closing of the school. The former school building was then sufficiently enlarged to meet the needs of the Novitiate Normal School, which was transferred from Saint Joseph's Convent on Farmington Avenue, and formally opened on January 22, 1913.

Mount Saint Joseph Academy. Mount Saint Joseph Academy, now located on Hamilton Heights, West Hartford, was transferred to this eminence overlooking the surrounding country, in September, 1908. The rapid development of the Academy in its former home on Farmington Avenue, next to Saint Joseph's Cathedral, had made it necessary to provide more ample grounds and a larger building for the school. The Sisters of Mercy purchased the new site in 1902, and began the erection of the present spacious building in 1905. It was completed in the summer of 1908, and on September 29, classes were opened in it for the scholastic year 1908-1909.

Mount Saint Joseph Academy, founded in Hartford in 1852, is a resident and day school for girls. The high School department offers four courses: college, academic, English, and secretarial. There are special courses for high school graduates. Instruction in piano, organ, and the stringed instruments is given in the music department. The preparatory department is limited to the seventh and the eighth grades.

The registration for some years past has been 240 pupils approximately. In June, 1929, the enrollment in the high

school was 210 students. Among the residents are pupils from all parts of Connecticut, and from neighboring states; among the non-resident pupils from Hartford, West Hartford, and the nearby towns.

The treasurer's bills, including residence and tuition, vary from $600 to $800 a year, according to the location of rooms. Laboratory fees are extra. Tuition for non-resident pupils is $200.

The Library of the Academy contains about 7000 books. At present the nucleus of a college library, numbering 3075 volumes, is housed in the Academy.

In March, 1925, the Connecticut State Legislature granted a college charter to the Academy.

Since the Academy was transferred to Hamilton Heights, West Hartford, in 1908, 660 pupils have been graduated from the school. There is a large and active Alumnae Association connected with the institution.

Parochial Institutions

Saint Mary's Home for the Aged. The Terry Farm, located on Steele Road and Albany Avenue, was purchased by the Sisters of Mercy in 1878 for a home for the aged. The original dwelling house, a small wooden building, is now used as a home for help. The present building was erected by the community and formally opened April 8, 1896. Since its opening, 1025 inmates have been registered. In 1922 part of the building was set apart as an infirmary for the use of the aged and infirm sisters of the community.

Saint Agnes Home. Saint Agnes Home, a maternity hospital, an infant asylum, and a child nurses' training school, is a diocesan institution under the care of the Sisters of Mercy. This home was formally opened by Right Reverend John J. Nilan, Bishop of Hartford, on September 8, 1914. Since then the total number of children admitted is 2814, total number of patients 1024, the number of nurses graduated 190.

CEMETERIES

The first site for a cemetery in the West Division was purchased in 1716. It was located on the east side of the main street a short distance north of the site of the first church building. It is now known as the Old Center Cemetery.

Mr. Henry C. Whitman, a descendant of one of the early prominent families of West Hartford, has carefully prepared a list of all known burials in that cemetery which have headstones. The list includes many well-known family names, and is of especial value in the present age of ancestral research. The descendants of those buried here are many and are scattered to all parts of the country.

Belden, Ester, died 1823, aged 75. Bidwell, Amos, died 1803, aged 73. Bidwell, Phebee, wife of Amos, died 1796, aged 62. Bidwell, Phebe W. daughter of Ozias, died 1797, aged 19 months. Brace, Henry, died 1814, aged 70. Brace, Abigail, wife of Henry, died 1802, aged 55. Brace, Thomas, died 1796, aged 46. Brace, Oren, died 1804, aged 19. Brace, Zenas, died 1791, aged 63. Brace, Mary, wife of Zenas, died 1808, aged 69. "Bristol, a native of Africa," slave of Thomas Hart Hooker, died 1814, aged 83. Butler, Zacheus, died 1791, aged 48. Butler, Joanna, wife of Zacheus, died 1813, aged 79. Cadwell, Jonathan, died 1760, aged 25. Cadwell, Ensign Samuel, died 1788, aged 78. Cadwell, Elishaba, wife of Samuel, died 1784, aged 72. Cadwell, Aaron, died 1802, aged 42. Cadwell, infant of Aaron, died 1785. Center, Ebenezer, died 1786, aged 44. Coleman, John, died 1758, aged 57. Collens, Captain Seth, died 1792, aged 50. Collens, Sarah, wife of Seth, died 1837, aged 90. Colton, Rev. Benjamin, died 1759, aged 69. Colton, Ruth, wife of Benjamin, died 1725, aged 32. Colton, Elizabeth, second wife of Benjamin, died 1760, aged 71. Colton, Anna, wife of Lieutenant Benjamin, died 1762, aged 38. Easton, Rachel, wife of James, died 1751, aged 18. Ensign, David, died 1727, aged 82. Faxon, Thomas, died 1801, aged 92. Faxon, Thomas, Jr., died 1789, aged 33.

Gaylord, Deacon William, died 1770, aged 92. Gaylord, Hope, wife of William, died 1763, aged 82. Gaylord, Moses, died 1733, aged 16. Gaylord, Aaron, died 1750, aged 31. Gaylord, Aaron, died 1750, aged 6. Gaylord, Asahel, died 1750, aged 2. Gaylord, Samuel, died 1783, aged 71. Gilbert, Anne, wife of Benjamin, died 1782, aged 39. Gillitt, Lieutenant Joseph, died 1746, aged 81. Goodman, Timothy, died 1786, aged 79. Goodman, Joanna, wife of Timothy, died 1768, aged 58. Goodman, Aaron, died 1756, aged 4. Goodman, Timothy, died 1752, aged 16. Goodman, Thomas, died 1809, aged 70. Goodman, Sarah, wife of Thomas, died 1798, aged 58. Good-

man, Ruth, wife of Thomas, died 1820, aged 81. Goodman, Timothy, died 1770, aged 3. Goodman, Thomas, Jr., died 1800, aged 28. Goodman, Abagail, wife of Thomas, Jr., died 1824, aged 51. Goodman, Timothy, died 1788, aged 18. Gray, Lucy, wife of Abiel, died 1791, aged 48.

Hooker, The Rev. Nathaniel, died 1770, aged 32. Hooker, Eunice, died 1769, aged 1 mo. Hosmer, Thomas, died 1777, aged 75. Hosmer, Susannah, wife of Thomas, died 1798, aged 82. Hosmer, Elisha, died 1779, aged 26.

Keyes, Captain Stephen, died 1788, aged 71. Keyes, Abigail, wife of Stephen, died 1808, aged 85. Keyes, Peggy, died 1808, aged 61.

Langdon, Timothy, died 1811, aged 22. Lyman, Abigail, wife of Ichabod, died 1809, aged 59.

Marshfield, Rachel, wife of Josias, died 1754, aged 86. Merrell, Lieutenant Isaac, died 1742, aged 60. Merrell, Deacon Abraham, died 1747, aged 76. Merrell, Prudence, wife of Abraham, died 1747, aged 71. Merrell, Jacob, died 1771, aged 56. Merrell, Mary, wife of Jacob, died 1792, aged 63. Merrell, Thomas, died 1814, aged 100. Mix, Mary, wife of Ebenezer, died 1745, aged 31. Mix, Ebenezer, died 1766, aged 51. Mix, Anna, wife of Ebenezer, died 1811 (?), aged 92.

Nash, Elizabeth, wife of Lieutenant John, died 1750, aged 67.

Sedgwick, Captain Samuel, died 1735, aged 68. Sedgwick, Mary, wife of Samuel, died 1743, aged 72. Sedgwick, Samuel, Jr., died 1725, aged 34. Sedgwick, Ebenezer, died 1759, aged 60. Sedgwick, Stephen, died 1768, aged 67. Seymore, Ensign Timothy, died 1749, aged 53. Seymour, Allyn, died 1760, aged 30. Seymour, Moses, died 1795, aged 84. Seymour, Rachel, wife of Moses, died 1763, aged 46. Skinner, Joseph, died 1770, aged 73. Skinner, Timothy, died 1779, aged 78. Skinner, Ruth, wife of Timothy, died 1754, aged 35. Skinner, Timothy, died 1750, aged 5. Skinner, Mabel, died 1743, aged 3 months. Skinner, James, died 1750, aged 18 months. Skinner, Abigail, died 1750, aged 3. Skinner, Thankfull, wife of Jonathan, died 1781, aged 25. Smith, Nathaniel, died 1733, aged 38. Stanley, Samuel, died 1787, aged 38. Stanley, Anna, wife of Samuel, died 1780, aged 33. Stanley, Amaziah, died 1790, aged 57, Stanley, Mary, wife of Amaziah, died 1822, aged 77. Steel, Captain Thomas, died 1740, aged 57. Steel, Dr. John, died 1760, aged 37. Steel, Allen, died 1802, aged 45. Steele, Joanna, wife of Allyn, died 1835, aged 78. Steel, Allyn, died 1789, aged 10. Steel,Lucy, died 1790, aged 4. Steele, Ebenezer, died 1805, aged 52. Steele, Rachel, wife of Ebenezer, died 1839, aged 85.

Trumbull, Sarah, wife of the Rev. John, died 1805, aged 87. Trumbull, Elizabeth, died 1778, aged 22.

Watson, John, senior, died 1725, aged 74. Webster, Rachel, wife of Abraham, died 1776 aged 23. Webster, child of Rachel,

died 1776, aged 7 days. Webster, Noah, father of the lexicographer, died 1813, aged 91. Webster, Mercy, wife of Noah, died 1794, aged 67. Wells, Ebenezer, died 1737, aged 43. Wells, Rachel, wife of Ebenezer, died 1787, aged 93. Wells, Ebenezer, died 1814, aged 82. Wells, Abigail, wife of Ebenezer, died 1758, aged 18. Wells, Elizabeth, wife of Ebenezer, died 1781, aged 51. Wells, Abi, wife of Ebenezer, died 1804, aged 52. Wells, Ebenezer, died 1766, aged 1. Wells, Ruth, died 1775, aged 4. Wells, Ebenezer, Jr., died 1798, aged 32. Wells, John, died 1795, aged 84. Wells, Jemima Smith, Wells, Hannah, Baker, Wells, Susanna Smith, wives of John. Wells, Sarah, wife of John, died 1736, aged 21. Wells, Sarah, died 1750, aged 13. Wells, Bazey, died 1814, aged 70. Wells, Ruth, wife of Bazey, died 1835, aged 86. Whiting, Colonel John, died 1767, aged 72. Whiting, Elizabeth, died 1750, aged 7. Whiting, Nathan H., died 1801, aged 42. Whiting, Ruth, wife of Nathan, died 1783, aged 22. Whiting, Gurdon S., died 1804, aged 38. Whiting, Elizabeth, wife of Gurdon S., died 1802, aged 34. Whiting, Nathaniel H., died 1869, aged 86. Whitman, Samuel, died 1785, aged 13 days. Whitman, Emma, died 1795, aged 1. Whitman, Emma 2d, died 1797, aged 1. Williams, Mary, wife of the Rev. Wareham, died 1801, aged 73.

The southern part of the Cemetery as it is now is an addition made from the Whitman property and is devoted to private lots for several families.

BOULDER IN MEMORY OF FRENCH SOLDIERS

In 1790 it was found necessary to secure additional ground for burial purposes and a new lot was purchased farther north on the main street, which now constitutes the southern part of the present cemetery familiarly known as the North Cemetery. In later years additions were made to this original tract. The latest of these was made in 1852 when that portion of the present cemetery which is north of the northern driveway was purchased.

For several years prior to 1893 the people of West Hartford realized and discussed the necessity of providing additional cemetery accommodations. The lots in the so called new cemetery, which was laid out in 1852, were nearly all taken and to a considerable extent occupied. Various plans were proposed for the enlargement of the cemetery by the purchase of adjoining land, but these were abandoned chiefly for the reason that little of this land was really suitable for burial purposes. Various sites for a new cemetery, were suggested from time to time, but none of these seemed to be fully acceptable. A project for underdraining and improving the eastern portion of the cemetery was considered and votes were passed by the town authorizing the Burying Ground Committee to make this improvement and appropriating $600 for the purpose. Upon further investigation and reflection this project seemed likely to prove unsatisfactory and at best calculated to afford only temporary relief. Attention was then turned to the selection of a suitable site for entirely new and spacious cemetery grounds.

W. H. Hall, a member of the Cemetery Committee, suggested to that committee a plan for the purchase of a tract of land between Farmington Avenue and Fern Street on the western end of the Whitman Estate, then the property of Charles M. Pond. Objection was made to this property because it was not accessible from any desirable existing street or road; but it was pointed out how readily it could be made accessible by opening a street from Farmington Avenue, and finally, at a special town meeting held June 25, 1893, the board of selectmen consisting of T. Everett Stanley, Wilbur E. Goodwin, and C. Edward Beach, and the Burying Ground Committee consisting of Edward Keney, Joseph E. Brace, and W. H. Hall, presented a report unanimously recommending the abandonment of the project for improving the eastern part of the old cemetery, and the purchase of a part or the whole of a tract of about 71 acres of land owned by Hon. Charles M. Pond, being the western part of the property purchased by him of the Whitman Estate, and situated west of West Hartford Main Street and between Farmington Avenue and Fern Street. This report was unanimously adopted. The selectmen were authorized to purchase the entire tract and the Burying Ground Committee was authorized to prepare a set of by-laws,

rules, and regulations for the management and maintenance of the cemetery, to be submitted to a future meeting.

At the adjourned annual town meeting held October 3, 1893, by-laws, rules, and regulations were submitted by the committee and unanimously adopted. The committee was authorized to secure the layout of the cemetery on the lawn principle, using their discretion as to the employment of surveyors and landscape gardeners. The committee subsequently contracted with Messrs. Wolcott & Darby, Civil Engineers of Hartford, to make a survey and topographical map of the entire tract, and with J. Alex. McClunie, landscape gardener of Hartford, to lay out the entire tract on the lawn plan and to provide suitable working plans, maps, and charts showing the layout of the sections, lots, drives, walks, and ornamental or park portions. This action of the town has been highly commended by its citizens and visiting friends in the years that have passed since the plan was adopted, and the cemetery is now regarded as one of the finest in the region.

The northern part of the tract purchased of Mr. Pond, fronting on Fern Street, and the western part along the banks of Trout Brook through the woodland were not considered suitable for burial purposes, but the committee were of the opinion that they might be at some time developed as parks.

The Chapel built of Canaan marble was erected soon after the World war developed, at a cost of $8,000.

FAIRVIEW CHAPEL

COMMUNITY SOCIETIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

There are evidences of an interest manifested in establishing a public library in the West Division as early as 1753. A Book Society was formed at that time and Noah Webster, Sen., deacon and justice of the peace, was prominently identified with it. Some old books are still in existence in the community which bear the stamp of that Society. It is not definitely known how long it continued in existence.

In 1837 Hon. Noah Webster, author, educator, statesman, sent this letter to his cousin John Belden, a resident of West Hartford.

"The following books I give to my nephew, John Belden, and to the pastor of the church in West Hartford for the time being, in trust for the use of any social or proprietor's library, which is now, or which may be formed in said West Hartford, my native place, with power to said Belden to appoint one trustee to succeed him after he shall die, or resign, to act with such other trustees as the proprietors of said library may appoint to manage the concerns of said library. [Here followed a list of the books.]

N. Webster

New Haven, September 25, 1837".

Rev. Edward W. Andrews was at that time the acting pastor of the Church, and he and Mr. Belden proceeded to carry out the wishes of Dr. Webster. A library association was then formed and Rev. Mr. Andrews was elected as its first president on January 2, 1838. The library was opened soon after and continued in operation for more than thirty years. Mr. John Belden resigned as trustee in 1838, and his son, Benjamin Belden, succeeded him. In 1852, Mr. Belden resigned in favor of his son-in-law, Lyman Hotchkiss. Rev. Dwight M. Seward and Rev. Myron N. Morris successively held important official positions in the association.

The library was located in the vestry of the Church and was opened regularly for the distribution of books. At one time it contained nearly one thousand volumes. It was well patronized and very useful at a time when books and periodicals were not found as now in the homes of the people. The significance of a public library in such a community at that time may be more fully realized in the light of the fact that there were in 1838 not more than six public libraries in all the towns of Connecticut, exclusive of those connected with colleges, seminaries, and other public institutions.

Apparently the Church did not maintain a strong interest in the library association during the later years of its existence. The direct management of its affairs, especially in the selection of books, was allowed to pass into the hands of those who were careless or lacked good judgment. Books of light fiction predominated. People began to lose interest and withdraw from the association. The income from annual dues and other sources was greatly diminished. Finally, about 1870, the library was closed, or rather left open without a custodian, in the vestry, which had become a town hall. The books were taken away one by one by people who did not return them, and ere long the library had disappeared.

When in 1880 plans were under consideration for the erection of a new church edifice, Mr. James Talcott of New York, a native of West Hartford and a lifelong friend of this church of his fathers, suggested that a room be provided in it for the accommodation of a public library, and later gave $5,000 towards the erection of the church. His suggestion was adopted, and on January 1, 1882, the first free public library was opened. Mr. Talcott contributed $500 at the outset for the purchase of books and in subsequent years made several liberal contributions for the same purpose. Mr. James Merrick Arnold bequeathed $100 to the Church for the library, and Mr. James M. Thomson gave $1,000 which at the suggestion of the pastor, Rev. T. M. Hodgdon, was designated as the Cornelia Thomson Fund, in memory of Mrs. Thomson, recently deceased. The income was used annually for the supply of magazines and other periodicals for the reading-table. Many other friends made liberal contributions of money, books, etc., and the Church, through the agency of an efficient committee elected at each annual meeting, maintained this library with marked success as a free and generous contribution to the welfare of the community. The town of West Hartford in 1897 assumed the responsibility for the library in accordance with the laws then recently enacted, but the Church continued its service by loaning 2,000 volumes, furnishing still the room in which the library was housed, and co-operating in its management through the library committee annually chosen.

In 1917 the town voted to open a public library to be located in Webster Hall and the Congregational Church cooperated in the project by loaning to the town the twenty-two hundred volumes which were then in its library, thus forming the foundation for the present library, which is conducted under the direction of a Library Commission elected by the town.

The first librarian to have charge of the library when it was installed in the Talcott Room of the church in 1882 was Miss Elizabeth S. Elmer, and she continued to render faithful and efficient service for thirty-six years. Miss Elmer is a native of West Hartford, a descendant of the Elmer and Wells families,

MISS ELIZABETH S. ELMER

who were among the early inhabitants of the West Division. She was graduated from Olivet College in 1874, and subsequently taught in the public schools of West Hartford for several years. She was the first teacher to serve as an assistant to the principal of the West Hartford High School in 1875.

Miss Mary S. Ellsworth succeeded Miss Elmer as librarian, rendering efficient service for seven years. The present librarian, Miss Margery Burditt, began her service in June, 1927. Under her direction the library has been thoroughly reorganized and at the same time the interior of the building has been renovated and improvements made.

A branch library has been maintained at Elmwood for a number of years under the care of Miss Julia L. Faxon.

WEST HARTFORD GRANGE NO. 58

The West Hartford Grange was organized February 12, 1887, under the leadership of J. H. Hale of Glastonbury, who was at that time Master of the State Grange.

There were thirty-two charter members. The first regular meeting was held in the Academy building on the first of March. Timothy Sedgwick was Master of the Grange, Everett T. Stanley, Overseer, Daniel G. Francis, Lecturer, Joshua N. Oviatt, Steward, Paul Thomson, Assistant Steward, Edward L. Mix, Chaplain, Charles H. Flagg, Treasurer, Charles A. Griswold, Secretary, Seth P. Griswold, Gate Keeper, Mrs. Timothy Sedgwick, Ceres, Mrs. D. G. Francis, Pomona, Mrs. Charles S. Griswold, Flora, Mrs. E. L. Mix, Lady Assistant Steward. The first initiation service was held in March. The applications for membership came in rapidly and in large numbers and the organization had a very successful beginning.

From its organization through the earlier years of its history the Grange manifested a keen interest in the welfare of the community. One of the first topics for discussion was in reference to the improvement of the public highways. As a result, a committee was appointed to call the attention of the selectmen to this subject and, soon after, a town meeting was held in connection with which the Good Roads Movement was inaugurated, of which some account is given in the chapter on highways. Another subject discussed was that of rural mail delivery. The results were equally satisfactory.

The Grange continued to manifest an interest in town affairs and to arouse public sentiment in favor of needed improvements. It was also instrumental in promoting a deeper interest in agricultural pursuits — dairying, horticulture, etc. The exhibits which it made at the annual state fairs at Charter Oak Park from year to year were among the finest.

After about ten years, the Grange moved to larger and better quarters on the second floor of the new brick Town Hall building.

The most prominent leaders who rendered service from time to time were Daniel G. Francis, A. B. Alderson, F. E. Duffy, M. L. Bristol, M. J. Burnham.

In 1908, Mrs. Charles H. Flagg presented the Grange with a beautiful Bible in memory of her husband. The Grange Quarterly was first issued in this year, with special editions for four sections of the town.

In 1909 the Women's Work Committee, Mrs. M. L. Bristol chairman, presented the Grange with a large flag. A piano costing $400 was purchased as a result of the efforts of Walter B. Spencer, at that time principal of the West Hartford High School.

In 1910 the Grange discussed the question of the annexation of West Hartford to Hartford and decided to go on record as opposed to the proposition.

In 1913 a contribution of $100 was made to the fund for the erection of the Noah Webster Library building.

These general items are sufficient to show that during all the years of its history this organization has been deeply interested

in the welfare of the town and has made valuable and varied contributions for the promotion of its interests. Although the town has changed to a large extent from an agricultural and dairying community to a residential community, the Grange still continues its organization and its interest in the town.

WYLLYS LODGE, NO. 99, A. F. & A. M.

In 1866 several members of St. John's Lodge of Hartford decided to establish a lodge of Masons in West Hartford, probably because of the inconvenience of attending Masonic communication in Hartford. William Storer, William B. Ely, Franklin Sisson, Hezekiah G. Webster, George Giddings, Seth Bishop, Rufus LaBar, and Benejah Gardner petitioned the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut for a dispensation granting a new lodge by the name of Wyllys Lodge to be located in West Hartford. St. John's Lodge recommended the petition and the lodge was instituted. The charter was dated May 17, 1866, and was signed by the Most Worshipful Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, Eli S. Quintard of Waterbury.

The first meeting of the Lodge was held in an upper room of a building located on the northwest corner of Albany Avenue and West Hartford Main Street, which originally was known as Goodman's Tavern and later as Hurlburt's Tavern. The first officers were as follows: Worthy Master, William Storer; Senior Warden, William B. Ely; Junior Warden, Franklin Sisson; Treasurer, Hezekiah G. Webster; Secretary, George Giddings; Senior Deacon, Seth Bishop; Junior Deacons, Rufus LaBar, Tyler, Benejah Gardner.

The Lodge occupied the room in which its first meeting was held only two months, when it negotiated for a lease of the old Academy building at West Hartford Center, located on South Main Street east of Goodman Park. A title to the property was acquired but later relinquished. The meetings of the lodge were held there until 1896, when the Lodge removed to the unoccupied High School building on North Main Street, at that time the property of Mrs. Susie B. Andrews. In 1903 a lease was obtained of the large upper room of the new Hall and the lodge occupied those quarters for a number of years.

One of the first members to join the Lodge after its organization was Elmer G. Clark, a nephew of George A. Giddings. Mr. Giddings was the second Master of Wyllys Lodge, highly esteemed by his associates, well versed in Masonic matters, and a wise and frequently consulted advisor.

William Storer, the First Master of Wyllys Lodge, in 1867 presented a fine Bible which is still used on Past Master Nights and other special occasions. Mr. Storer died May 29, 1872, aged 74 years. He was buried with Masonic honors in New Haven,

his brothers of Wyllys Lodge attending and participating in the burial service, which was also attended by many members of the Grand Lodge of which he had been an officer.

In 1912, Henry C. Long saw the necessity of a Masonic Temple for Wyllys Lodge, and through his untiring efforts the Masonic Hall Association was organized and on January 31, 1913, held its first meeting. Activities were immediately begun to raise sufficient money to warrant the commencement of building operations. February 17, 1913, the George Ellsworth property on South Main Street was purchased. On April 1, 1915, it was voted to sell this property. In October of the same year a more desirable site adjoining the Episcopal Church on South Main Street was purchased, and it is at this location that the new temple has been erected. The raising of funds was con-

MASONIC TEMPLE

tinued. On July 19, 1916, the Treasurer reported that the land was fully paid for, and the building committee was empowered to complete plans for a Temple. Activities in raising funds were continued, and on May 16, 1921, George R. Porter was appointed captain of a group of ten teams, each consisting of several brothers, to solicit funds.

On January 15, 1923, a building committee was appointed consisting of Charles A. Griswold (chairman), C. H. Abbott, Allen S. Griswold, Frederick A. Corkins, George R. Porter, Wil-

liam S. Brace, and Myron J. Burnham, with full power to select plans and contract for the erection of the temple. The contract for the building was awarded to Brother Wahlquist of the Industrial Construction Company of Hartford on June 11, 1923. Mr. Walter T. Arnold of Meriden was the architect.

The corner stone of the Lodge was placed September 8, 1923. The ceremony was colorful, dignified, and impressive. Many of the officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge and the craft from this and sister jurisdictions were present. Most Worshipful Arthur M. Brown, Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut, conducted the ceremonies. The exercises were opened with an invocation by Most Worshipful English. Most Worshipful Fred Verplanck read a list of the documents placed in the casket deposited in the stone, which were as follows: a list of subscribers to the building fund, a gavel, copies of the Hartford *Times* and the Hartford *Courant*, a piece of wood from the first building used by the Lodge for meetings, a copy of the Grand Lodge proceedings for 1923, the Syria *Bulletin* for August, 1923, a history of Wyllys Lodge, a list of officers of the Masonic Hall Association, a list of charter members and a list of present members. Following this, the stone was tested according to Masonic ritual and found perfect; and after being consecrated, it was placed in the proper niche in the northeast corner of the Temple.

This temple, located on South Main Street west of Goodman Park on a lot adjoining the ground of St. James Episcopal Church, was dedicated with appropriate and interesting exercises on May 3, 1927. In connection with the event Storer Chapter O. E. S. served dinner. The ceremony of dedicatory exercises was in charge of officers of the Grand Lodge.

The following named persons have served as Masters of the Lodge: *William Storer, *George Giddings, *Joel E. Rood, *F. A. Seymour, *Charles A. Bowles, *H. U. Richmond, James P. Allen, *John M. G. Brace, *M. S. Buckland, *Seth L. Gilbert, Sidney E. Clark, Wm. F. Hawley, John M. Shaw, W. J. Decker, Charles E. Lord, W. S. Brace, William A. King, Charles A. Griswold, Thomas C. Brown, Clinton Hart, E. M. Peck, William E. Johnson, Allen B. Judd, M. J. Burnham, *Alfred Plant, John R. Stoddard, Charles M. Penfield, *M. L. Bristol, M. J. Case, George E. Flagg, Louis C. LeMay, Perley E. Tucker, Julius P. Wessel, *G. A. Hoffmier, A. J. Keeney, Harry Green, H. A. King, F. A. Corkins, A. E. Thorpe, and F. W. Gillette.

*Deceased.

WEST HARTFORD VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

This Society was organized in connection with a Teachers' Institute held in the Congregational Church December 17, 1877, and conducted by Birdsey G. Northrop, Secretary of the

State Board of Education at that time. Professor Northrop was deeply interested in the improvement of the general condition and appearance of the streets and public places in Connecticut towns, and wherever he went in the performance of his duties in behalf of public school education, he improved the opportunities to advocate such town improvements by the organization of Village Improvement Societies. As the result of his visit to West Hartford a Society was organized, and at a meeting held February 26, 1878, the following were elected to serve as officers: President, Paul Thomson; Secretary, Miss Mary W. Hamilton; Treasurer, Walter Cadwell; Vice presidents, Adolph C. Sternberg, Charles E. Kellogg, Frank H. Strong; Clerk, Charles W. Robbins; Executive Committee, Mrs. Charles S. Mills, Miss Florence E. Flagg, Miss Etta Stanley, Miss Kate Raymond, Charles H. Flagg, Jared A. Griswold, Seymour L. Steele, Morgan Goodwin. The executive committee was chosen with respect to locality, the plan being to have them represent the several school districts.

The Society proceeded to secure funds, in addition to the money obtained through initiation fees, by giving public entertainments. Some personal contributions were also received. Much interest was manifested in the Society and its operations.

As soon as the season would permit, the construction of sidewalks received attention. Gravel walks were built on Main Street from the Center north to the bridge over Trout Brook, and south to Thomson's Corner, also west nearly to Mountain Road. The stone and gravel for this purpose were mostly contributed, and the labor of carting and construction was also given without compensation, usually in connection with rallies or bees, when those who were interested and willing to co-operate spent a half day at a time on the work. From the Center to Whiting Lane, a plank or board walk was constructed.

The building of these walks was considered a fine contribution to the convenience and welfare of the citizens of the community. It was also highly commendable as a means of promoting public spirit.

Several citizens who owned horses volunteered to keep the walks cleared of snow in the winter, with snow-ploughs drawn by horses. Another undertaking which was fostered by the Improvement Society was the installation and maintenance of kerosene street lamps on Farmington Avenue and Main Street. Many of these were installed and cared for by property owners in front of their own residences.

The planting of trees in public places and along the sides of the roads in front of house lots and farms also received considerable attention. It is of record that Mr. John B. Griswold, whose farm was on the north side of Farmington Avenue and the east side of Mountain Road, was made an honorary member of the

Society in consideration of the fact that he had planted a considerable number of trees along the front lines of his farm. Most of the trees planted at that time, as the result of the influence and endeavors of the Society, have disappeared, largely on account of the grading and widening of the highways. A few remain on North Main Street and South Main Street.

When in the later years the town began to give attention to public improvements in a larger way, the call for plans and efforts along this line by the Village Improvement Society lost much of its force and importance, and for many years now the Society has not been active in the lines of public improvements for which it was originally organized and incorporated. It has, however, maintained its organization, holding annual meetings year after year and electing officers.

The plan of devoting one or more days each year to the gathering and disposal of ashes, rubbish, etc. was pursued for several years and members of the Society gave their personal attention to the matter, going with the drivers of trucks through the principal streets for that purpose. The week during which this effort in behalf of the community was made came to be known as Clean-Up Week. This enterprise was continued until the town officials took it in charge.

In 1914 a communication was received from the Connecticut State Tuberculosis Commission requesting the Society to act as its agent or representative in West Hartford for the annual sale of Christmas seals, the receipts from such sales to become a part of a fund to be used for the benefit of persons affected with tuberculosis or having symptons of a tendency in that direction. The Society accepted the appointment, and has continued to act in that capacity ever since. Eighty-five per cent of the funds thus collected is assigned to the Society, to be used for the benefit of residents of West Hartford who are in need of financial assistance because they are afflicted with that disease or have symptons of a tendency in that direction. From the funds thus coming into the treasury of the Society, substantial and gratifying assistance has been given many persons. For several years milk has been supplied to children in the public schools who have been found to be undernourished and whose parents were unable to bear the expense of providing the milk. In this manner the Society is accomplishing a good work, although not directly in the line of the purpose for which it was organized.

The present officers are as follows: President, William H. Hall; Secretary, Clarence R. Root; Treasurer, Hyman F. Smith; Vice-Presidents, Charles A. Griswold, W. L. Julian.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE AND BOY SCOUT TROOP 12

The Boys' Brigade of the Congregational Church was organized in 1905 as a part of the then national organization and

was designated as Co. C. Boys between the ages of 12 and 18 were being attracted by this organization partly, no doubt, through the appeal of its military features and the right to wear a uniform. However, before joining, boys had to sign a pledge to abstain from the use of any intoxicating liquor and tobacco in any form. They also had to pledge not to swear or use obscene language. The rules were rigidly enforced and never was a boy in the history of the Brigade found unworthy.

About 30 boys joined, and this number was sustained during its entire history of about seven years. Weekly meetings were held in the chapel of the Congregational Church. The first part was devotional, in charge of Rev. Mr. Hodgdon. The boys then were put in charge of the Captain, who formed them in line and marched them to the old Town Hall where they were given setting up exercises and military drill. Dummy rifles were used.

The big event of the year was the annual Exhibition Drill held in May, which attracted many of the townspeople. A prize drill was always a part of this occasion, and by a process of elimination the best driller was decided upon. There was always keen competition and much enthusiasm.

Another big event was the going to camp, usually in June, for two weeks. Two different years the boys went to the Aqueduct on the Farmington River, and many were the thrilling experiences, such as standing guard at night, sham battles, sports, etc. Another year, 1909, the boys were taken to the shore and enjoyed camp life there.

They always looked forward with interest to Memorial Day, at which time they had the post of honor in the parade escorting the veterans to the cemetery.

The church people who supported this work felt that their money was well spent, for no doubt it did much to strengthen the characters of these growing boys and made better citizens of them.

In 1911 this brigade was reorganized as Troop 12 Boy Scouts of America and Arthur R. Thompson was appointed Scoutmaster. He continued as the leader of the troop until 1915, rendering efficient and devoted service. During his administration and to a large extent by his labor and the cooperation of members of the troop and friends, a Boy Scout cabin was built. This is located in a very appropriate and attractive spot on the eastern slope of Talcott Mountain on the western end of a large mountain-side farm owned by Samuel H. Valentine of New York City, who generously gave the use of land for that purpose. In consideration of this interest and generosity the resort and cabin were named Camp Valentine. This camp was appropriately dedicated in connection with the observance of the two hundredth anniversary of the organization of the Congregational Church on Tuesday, May 20, 1913.

In 1915, Dr. Edwin H. Munger was appointed Scout-master and continued in that position until his death in 1928. Dr. Munger was not only an enthusiastic and efficient leader in the training and drill of the boys, but was also a well-informed nature student and gave the boys much valuable instruction respecting birds, flowers, trees, ferns, and rocks.

DR. EDWIN H. MUNGER (CENTER)

On account of its location quite remote from the dwellings of the people, the cabin was subject to the depredations of those who were intent on mischief and the cabin was frequently broken into, some of its furnishings and contents stolen or destroyed, and the cabin itself injured. This necessitated a large amount of labor on the part of the leaders and the boys in making repairs.

The cooperation of the fathers of the boys was greatly promoted by means of the annual Father and Son banquets, which were greatly enjoyed.

Dr. Munger died February, 1928, of lobar-pneumonia resulting from a severe cold contracted while he was working on repairs to the cabin. Mr. George A. Latimer, who succeeded Dr. Munger as Scout-master and is carrying on the work successfully, pays tribute to Dr. Munger's accomplishments as follows: "The Town of West Hartford has been exceedingly fortunate in having had a real Scout-master in the late Dr. E. H. Munger, for under his guidance Scouting in the Town has

taken a very high rank. Troop 12 has been, since its organization in 1911, one of the leading troops in the East, with an average of 31 boys each year registered during a period of 17 years. Over 40 boys have attained the highest rank in Scouting and received the award of Eagle Badge. Medals, cups, and banners have been taken in contest and efficiency work."

Rev. Thomas M. Hodgdon, whose pastorate in the Congregational Church has been characterized by a spirit of devoted service in behalf of the young people in the Bible School and Young People's Christian Endeavor Society, has also been active and efficient in connection with the Boys' Brigade and Boy Scout organizations, attending their meetings, conducting devotional services, giving instruction, and participating in the work of building and repairing the cabin.

THE SARAH WHITMAN HOOKER CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

This chapter was organized in the home of Mrs. Harriet Wadsworth Arnold (Mrs. Edwin H.) on Farmington Avenue, on January 27, 1906. The inspiration for this movement came from Mrs. Amelia Elizabeth Paulison, then residing in West Hartford in the home of her cousin, Cap. Daniel G. Francis, on South Main Street. Mrs. Sara Thompson Kinney, then Regent of the State D. A. R. organization, greatly encouraged the movement. The enrollment of members at the first meeting was fifty-six. The statement was made by those conversant with D. A. R. affairs that, up to that time, no chapter had been organized with so many charter members.

The object of the chapter was to cooperate with the national organization in cherishing and perpetuating the memory and spirit of those patriotic men and women who had achieved American independence, to collect and preserve historical material of a patriotic nature, to secure the protection of historic places in the community, the erection of monuments or tablets to promote patriotic celebrations, the observance of noteworthy anniversaries and events, in short to endeavor in all possible ways to develop enlightened public opinion and sentiment in order that the spirit of true citizenship and patriotic devotion might prevail and the blessing of liberty might abound.

The name chosen for the chapter was a very fortunate one, in deserved honor of a brave and patriotic woman, a native of West Hartford. Sarah Whitman, daughter of Deacon John Whitman and Abigail Pantry Whitman, was born in West Hartford on February 27, 1747. In 1768 she married Thomas Hart Hooker of Farmington, who was a descendant, in the fourth generation, of Rev. Thomas Hooker, the leader in the founding of Hartford in 1636.

In 1773 Mr. Hooker purchased a home on Four Mile Hill, at the southern terminus of the Main Street of West Hartford and on the south side of the South Road to Farmington, now known as New Britain Avenue. When the War of the Revolution broke out in 1775, Mr. Hooker enlisted, and joined the American army near Boston. He was the owner of slaves, but before he joined the army, he gave them their freedom, saying he could not consistently fight for liberty and remain a slave holder.

Mrs. Hooker remained in the home in West Hartford, with one of the negro servants named Bristol. When Fort Ticonderoga was captured by the American forces under Ethan Allen in 1775, some British officers were taken prisoners, sent on parole to West Hartford, and quartered in the Hooker homestead under the care of Mrs. Hooker and Bristol. They remained in this house several months, and when they were released, they presented Mrs. Hooker with a beautiful gold ring as a token of their respect for her and appreciation of her kindness.

Mr. Hooker died while in the army, a few months after his enlistment. Mrs. Hooker subsequently married Seth Collins, and continued to live in West Hartford. She lived to be nearly ninety years of age. Her burial place in the old cemetery at the Center is marked by a small headstone which bears this inscription:

"Sarah Whitman Hooker Collins
1747-1837"

In the northwest corner of the old cemetery on North Main Street, close to the street, is a small, modest headstone which marks the grave of Bristol, the faithful servant of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hart Hooker. It bears this inscription: "In memory of Bristol, a native of Africa who died March 11, 1814, aged 83 years."

Mrs. Ralph E. Gerth, a Vice-Regent of The Sarah Whitman Hooker Chapter D. A. R., has recently purchased the former home of Mrs. Sarah Whitman Hooker at Four Mile Hill on New Britain Avenue and at great expense and a large amount of labor has had it restored as far as is possible to its ancient condition and appearance, and dedicated it to patriotic uses in connection with D. A. R. and corresponding organizations. The spirit manifested by her and her accomplishments in this patriotic undertaking are worthy of the highest commendation by all true citizens.

The chapter has accomplished excellent results along the lines of endeavor indicated in the statement of the objects for which it was organized, securing and putting in tangible form much valuable information respecting West Hartford's patriotic participation in the wars that have taken place in our country,

with lists of those who were in service, promoting a deeper interest in the observance of Memorial Day and the decoration of soldiers' graves, especially of those soldiers who served their country during the War of The Revolution and were buried here in our cemeteries. The list is as follows: Joseph Elmer, Ebenezer Faxon, Albijah Flagg, Moses Goodman, Richard Goodman, Ebenezer Steele, Capt. Charles Seymour, James Seymour, Capt. John Seymour, Noah Webster, Bazey Wells, Nathan H. Whiting, Capt. Samuel Whitman.

It has had a strong influence in the promotion of a patriotic spirit in the community and of greater consideration for and interest in all matters which pertain to the general welfare.

As a result of the interest and efforts of Mrs. H. G. Bissell, Regent of the Chapter in 1923, a large, finely-shaped boulder was secured and placed in the front part of the old cemetery on North Main Street and dedicated with appropriate exercises to the French Soldiers who died in camp in West Hartford during the War of The Revolution. The boulder bears this inscription: "In memory of French Soldiers who died in West Hartford during the Revolutionary War. Erected in 1923 by the D. A. R."

The most notable of its accomplishments will doubtless be conceded to be the securing of a building for the public library, known as the Noah Webster Library, a fitting memorial for West Hartford's most distinguished son, Noah Webster, L.L.D.,

NOAH WEBSTER LIBRARY

eminent scholar, author, statesman, educator and lexicographer of world wide reputation and honor. The story of the West Hartford Public Library is given in another chapter, but the securing of a suitable home for that library is an important part of the history and accomplishments of the Sarah Whitman Hooker Chapter, Daughters of The American Revolution.

For some years a number of the citizens of West Hartford had felt that there should be somewhere in the town a suitable and substantial memorial for Noah Webster who was born here in 1758. A considerable sum was subscribed for this purpose, but the project was not carried forward to a successful result. Finally the members of the D. A. R. took up the matter in a very patriotic and efficient manner, advocated the erection of a public library building, and secured gifts in addition to those subscriptions which had previously been made, as well as raising funds by means of bazaars and other similar enterprises, until at the end of nine years they had contributions amounting to $30,337.

This included the gift from Mrs. Mary J. Shepard of a site for the building which was valued at $4,000. That site was on South Main Street west of Goodman Park, where the Masonic Temple now is. While all the people fully appreciated Mrs. Shepard's patriotic and generous gift, it was felt by many that a more suitable site would be farther north on Main Street, on or near the corner which had for many years been devoted to public buildings. In recognition of this sentiment Mrs. Shepard generously consented to the sale of the site which she had given, and subsequently the land on which the library building now stands was purchased of William S. Brace, it being a portion of the farm which had been in the possession of the Brace family for three generations.

Suitable plans for the building were prepared and a contract was made with R. F. Jones for the construction of the building under the general direction of a building committee consisting of Miss Sarah W. Talcott, Mrs. R. S. Cruttenden, and Mrs. Paul Thomson. A subsequent committee who had charge of the construction of the building consisted of Mrs. William P. Barber, Mrs. Charles A. Griswold, Mrs. H. L. Crandall, and Miss Mary C. Cone.

The corner stone was laid with appropriate exercises on October 4, 1915, planned by a committee consisting of Miss Addie S. Arnold, Mrs. T. M. Hodgdon, Mrs. George A. Kellogg. Prof. Charles S. Lane of the Hartford School of Religious Pedagogy delivered an address. On February 27, 1917, the building was dedicated. The exercises were conducted by Mrs. William P. Barber, Regent of the Chapter. Mrs. J. Laidlaw Buell, State Regent, made an address. Rev. Thomas M. Hodgdon, and Prof. Curtis M. Geer of the Hartford Theological Seminary also made addresses. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Rev.

Dr. Samuel A. Colladay, Rector of St. James Episcopal Church. A. Carl Sternberg, First Selectman of West Hartford, accepted the building in behalf of the Town, giving heartfelt expression of the grateful appreciation by the citizens of the town, of the arduous patriotic and successful service rendered by the members of the D. A. R. who had bravely undertaken this enterprise in behalf of the community. The committee of arrangements having charge of this dedicatory service were Mrs. F. E. Duffy and Miss Addie S. Arnold.

Mrs. William P. Barker was the regent of the chapter at the time when the work of securing funds and of the completion and dedication of the building was accomplished, and the success of those accomplishments is due in a large measure to her heroic, enthusiastic leadership and labors.

Among the gifts presented to the library at that time was a portrait of Rev. Nathan Perkins, D.D., for sixty-five years pastor of the Congregational Church in West Hartford, the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth G. Sisson, a descendant of the Butler family, who were among the first settlers in the community, and a portrait of Noah Webster presented by Superintendent of Schools W. H. Hall, which had been paid for and was the gift of the school children of West Hartford. Both portraits were painted by Albertus E. Jones of Hartford.

The following is a list of those ladies who have served as regents of the Chapter from the date of its organization until the present time (1929): Miss Sarah W. Talcott, Mrs. James E. Smith, Mrs. Frederick E. Duffy, Mrs. William P. Barber, Mrs. Charles H. Flagg, Mrs. David I. Green, Mrs. Herbert G. Bissell, Mrs. Bertha Phelps, Mrs. H. Allen Roberts, Mrs. Carl A. Mitchell.

Miss Sarah W. Talcott has been honored with the position and title of Honorary Regent. Miss May L. Whitman served as the efficient Registrar of the Chapter from the beginning for many years, and was succeeded by Mrs. Frank P. Moulton. Miss Mary S. Ellsworth is the present Registrar.

THE WEST HARTFORD BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In the spring of 1907, Allen B. Judd and a few other business men of West Hartford became much interested in the idea of forming an association of business men and citizens for the consideration and promotion of the business and public interests of the community.

A meeting was called to be held on the evening of May 1, 1907, in connection with a banquet to be served in The Heublein Hotel in Hartford. That meeting was attended by a large num-

ber of West Hartford men. Mr. Judd acted as chairman of the meeting. Brief addresses were made by C. Edward Beach, A. C. Sternberg, Robert L. Winckley, and Paul Thomson. The proposition for the formation of an association was strongly favored at that time, but no definite action was taken until March 1908, when a public meeting was called, and a committee was appointed to draft a set of by-laws and rules for the formation and government of an organization, to be known as The West Hartford Business Men's Association. That committee made their report at a meeting held April 10, 1908, the association was formed, and the following officers were elected: President, Allen B. Judd; Secretary, Clarence C. Scarborough; Treasurer, Harold E. Hitchcock.

Committees were appointed later by the President to take into consideration various features and conditions in connection with the public affairs of the town, and report the result of their investigations and deliberations at the regular meetings of the association from time to time. While the association had no authority or power to act in respect to the conduct of the public affairs of the town, the results of the action taken by the committees and of the discussions in the meetings of the associations were of great value in the promotion of greater interest and more hearty cooperation on the part of citizens generally.

The position of president of the Association, after Mr. Judd's term of service, was held successively by Frank H. Stadtmueller, Rev. T. M. Hodgdon, William H. Hall, A. C. Sternberg, and George W. Staples, under whose leadership the work was carried forward in the same general manner and with good results.

In 1913 it was decided to alter somewhat the form of organization, change the name to "The West Hartford Chamber of Commerce," and to become, through affiliation an auxiliary of the Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. The general plan for the annual appointment by the president of standing committees for the consideration of all matters of public interest, which had been pursued by the Business Men's Association, was continued. The principal committees appointed were those on education, manufacturing, transportation, public affairs, health and sanitation, state and national legislation, municipal government, publicity, membership, etc. The reports of these committees from time to time formed the basis for discussions, and, in some cases for definite action on the part of the chamber. The general effect was to promote a stronger spirit of patriotic interest in public affairs. Public meetings were held, and addresses delivered by able speakers of the town, and of other communities, including some of State and National reputation.

At one time upon the request of the Chamber, State Forester Austin F. Hawes, of the board of directors, made a carefully prepared report in respect to public tree planting, and a com-

mittee consisting of Austin F. Hawes, Daniel W. Murphy, and William H. Hall, made a tour of the town, for the purpose of discovering appropriate locations for public parks. Their report called attention to several fine locations in different sections of the town and was forwarded by the Chamber to the Town Plan Park and Cemetery Commission.

In 1927 Frederick H. Forbes, then Treasurer, expressed great interest in the preparation for publication of a volume concerning the history of West Hartford, and in response to his suggestion the Chamber voted requesting William H. Hall to prepare such a book and pledged themselves to be responsible for the expense incurred in its publication. They voted that Gustave Fischer, Myron J. Burnham, Dennis F. Ahern, Thomas W. Russell, Allen B. Judd, and Lloyd H. Bugbee should be the committee to have charge of the matter.

Mr. Forbes died in 1928 while still holding the position of Treasurer. Appropriate resolutions, appreciative of him and his devotion to the interests of the Chamber, and extending heartfelt expressions of sympathy to his family, were adopted at a meeting of the directors held February 7, 1928.

The first president of the chamber was Gustave Fischer, who served for two years and gave liberally of his time and fine business ability for the promotion of the interests of the chamber. Under his administration the membership increased to over two hundred. The following named persons have held the position of president in the years succeeding Mr. Fischer's administration: George L. Vannais, Frederick W. Arnold, Christopher M. Gallup, Ralph M. Lowry. The chamber has had efficient secretaries as follows: George L. Vannais, Leon Vannais, Thomas G. Shaffer, Mrs. Mary Buckland, Ralph M. Lowry, Charles K. Oaks. The treasurers have been Harold E. Hitchcock, Frederick H. Forbes, Nelles E. Day, C. A. Boyce.

During the early part of 1929 when it was evident that the chamber had been for some time inactive, some of the enterprising citizens of the town inaugurated a movement for its reorganization. A rally was held in connection with a banquet under direction of the following list of officers who had been elected at a previous meeting and who are the officers of the chamber for 1929-1930: President, Louis N. Denniston; Vice-Presidents, L. J. Corliss, Wallace W. Thomson, Benjamin I. Miller, Henry C. Kottenhoff; Corresponding Secretary, C. A. Boyce; Recording Secretary, C. K. Oaks; Treasurer, Beverly Walker; Directors, Ralph M. Lowry, Myron J. Burnham, Gustave Fischer, Austin F. Hawes, David W. Murphy, George W. Baker, J. A. Harrington, Wallace B. Goodwin, C. E. Luscomb, A. S. Bill, H. W. Walsche, Dennis F. Ahern, S. E. Stockwell, Willard Gay, William Bulkeley; William H. Hall is an Honorary Life Director.

WEST HARTFORD MEMORIAL DAY ASSOCIATION

This association was organized in May, 1913, by patriotic citizens of the town, for the purpose of assisting in the proper observance of Memorial Day, and to foster and promote the spirit of patriotism in the community. The officers were Prof. Curtis M. Geer, President, and Clarence R. Root, Secretary. Various committees have been appointed from year to year. Mr. Root has continued to serve as secretary, and has devoted a large amount of time and effort to the promotion of the work of the Association, keeping the records, preserving the Memorial Day programs, etc. On each Memorial Day the people assemble in the forenoon at the Town Hall, form a procession, and under the leadership of bands of music and carrying flags, march to the cemetery, where brief exercises are held, including an address. The decoration of the graves of veterans concludes the day's program. The following lists contain the names of all West Hartford Veterans who are thus remembered and honored.

Veterans of the War of the Revolution

Ebenezer Faxon
Abijah Flagg
Moses Goodman
Richard Goodman
Ebenezer Steele
Capt. Charles Seymour
James Seymour
Capt. John Seymour
Noah Webster
Bazey Wells
Nathan H. Whiting
Capt. Samuel Whitman

Veterans of the Civil War in North Cemetery

Gilbert B. Foster
Arthur D. N. Talcott
Capt. Richard K. Woodruff
Julius W. Deming
Wilbur S. Churchill
Richard M. Hills
Frederick J. Butler
Watson G. Palmer
Edgar A. Wells
George W. Gilbert
James R. Soper
George W. Roberts
Edward A. Flagg
George Cadwell
Chester Goodman
Edward B. Cone
Seymour L. Steele
Charles E. Malona
William F. Mitchell
George M. Wells
Orlando A. Palmer
Francis G. Butler
Charles H. Flagg
Amos Hurlburt
Major F. A. Seymour
Abel Griswold
Clinton B. Elmer
Moses G. Griswold
Albert M. Cadwell
G. W. Seymour
David Hadden
Hiram B. Elmer
Hugh S. Montgomery
Edward H. Cadwell
Lanson P. Wells
John Pratt Cadwell
Col. William E. Cone

Veterans of the Civil War in Fairview Cemetery

John Sternberg
Carl H. Conrads

John Braxton Robinson
William H. Yates
John K. Whitney
William Morrison
Capt. E. Buell Root
L. Davids
George S. Merritt
Eugene D. Ames

In the North Cemetery a tablet provided by the State of Connecticut records the names of the following West Hartford men who died in service during the Civil War and whose burial places are not in the West Hartford cemeteries. This tablet is decorated on Memorial Day.

Theron D. Millard
Edward Deming
Charles M. Sternberg
Henry Kimberly
Mortimer H. Cadwell
Henry N. Sperry
Thomas B. Foster
John Noland
Uriah T. Wells
William Althrop
John McCarty

Veterans of the World War

Raymond C. Mitchell
Julius A. Steele
J. Benjamin Tremble
Waldo C. Hayes
Lt. William Cheney Brown, Jr.
Paul Theo. Loescher
Miss Marion H. White
Randolf Thayer Burnham

The duty and privilege of honoring in a more substantial and enduring memorial those citizens of West Hartford who in successive generations have given their lives in defense of our country still remains unaccomplished. Patriotic citizens from time to time have suggested such memorials as bronze tablets, statues, monuments, and public buildings devoted to patriotic uses, but as yet no suggestion or plan has been adopted and no movement started with prospect of successful issue.

THE WORLD WAR BUREAU

The people of West Hartford were patriotic in spirit and action during the World War Period. They organized a World War Bureau at a meeting held on the evening of Tuesday, November 20, 1917, held in the hall of the Noah Webster Library.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, C. Edward Beach; Secretary, Mrs. Mary Buckland; Treasurer, Rev. Thomas M. Hodgdon. At a meeting held on the evening of November 27 the following committees were appointed: Executive Committee, C. Edward Beach, C. C. Cook, Frank Cadwell, F. E. Duffy, Mrs. F. E. Duffy, A. C. Sternberg, Mrs. G. W. Wright, George W. Staples; Finance Committee, Oliver R. Beckwith, F. E. Duffy, Rev. T. M. Hodgdon; Relief Committee, Mrs. G. W. Wright, Mrs. F. E. Duffy, Mrs. William Hoye; Labor Committee, A. C. Sternberg, Frank Cadwell, Rev. John F. Ryan; Publicity Committee, Mrs. R. S. Cruttenden, Mrs. H. A. Newlands, Rev. E.

W. Darrow; Foreign Born Committee, Rev. John F. Ryan, F. E. Duffy, Rev. J. W. Bradin; Information and Research, Frank Cadwell, W. W. Thomson, Miss Addie S. Arnold. The Bureau at once entered upon active work and regular meetings were held which were well attended. Reports of the committees were presented and plans made for future activities.

The ladies connected with the Bureau and their associates were busily engaged in providing knitted garments, surgical supplies, comfort kits, etc. They provided complete outfits for one hundred and forty-eight West Hartford young men who had entered the service, and were diligent in providing for the comfort and needs of the families of those who had enlisted. The Bureau was successful in raising funds for the cause and in securing large subscriptions for Liberty loans far exceeding the quota assigned to it.

It heartily and efficiently fostered the Home Gardens movement in which a large number of West Hartford people cooperated heartily and effectively.

The committee on the preparation of an honor roll, Miss Addie S. Arnold, Chairman, secured the erection of a board near the Town Hall on which the names of all who had entered the service were recorded.

On May 21, 1919, the Bureau held a meeting which was attended by representatives of the various organizations of the town, for the purpose of planning a public reception, a welcome home for all who had been in Service during the World War, and for all Civil War and Spanish War veterans. The following program was arranged, the reception to be held on Flag Day, June fourteenth.

On Goodman Park at 5 P. M.: Music by Colt's Band, solo by Miss Grace Gilmore, address by Lieut. Albert H. Simons, dances by pupils of Helen Way Linder.

In Town Hall at 6:30 P.M.: Supper for all West Hartford men and women who served in the World War, with Civil War and Spanish War Veterans as guests. Music by Colt's Band.

There was a large attendance on that occasion.

Mrs. Mary Buckland, Secretary, has preserved in a portfolio the complete, finely kept records of the Bureau. It constitutes a valuable historical document.

THE HAYES-VELHAGE POST AMERICAN LEGION OF WEST HARTFORD NO. 96

This Post was organized July 14, 1921. The first meeting was held on the front steps of the Old Town Hall. Herbert G. Bissell was instrumental in securing its organization. The Post was named in honor of two West Hartford boys who were in

the Army and Navy during the World War. One of these was Waldo S. Hayes, son of W. E. Hayes of Farmington Avenue, and the other was Francis Velhage, son of Frank Velhage of Levesque Avenue. Waldo Hayes was killed "over there," and Francis Velhage died while on duty in the Navy. This name for the the Post was suggested by Mrs. Herbert G. Bissell. The Charter members of the Post were as follows:

Leonard H. F. Wessell
Earl W. Goodell
H. E. Swenson
W. D. Pond
L. N. S. Johnson
Herbert G. Bissell
Wilson S. Falls
Sydney N. Kibby
Frank H. Smith
Clarence C. Scarborough
A. W. Hillery
Thomas S. Shaffer
James K. Holden
Leon E. Vannais
Jesse R. Colpitts
James N. James
L. D. Fisk, Jr.
Victor J. Dauphinais
Joseph P. Cosgrave
H. L. Perkins
James F. Cosgrave
O. Edwin Gustafson
Frank O. Hatch
H. Jos. Taylor
Carl F. Montlas
Jay Pinckney
Clifford E. Kelsey
Stanley B. Ellingsworth
Richard J. Hughes
William H. Bulkeley
Carl N. Gustafson
Francis E. Sterns
A. Carl Sternberg III
Henry G. Wessel
Cyrus T. Steven
J. Fay Newton
D. Gordon Hunter
Leslie L. Merrill
S. Earl Livingston
John C. Taylor

Frank H. Smith was the first Commander of the Post and Charles Dorman his Adjutant. In the autumn of the first year, the Post was allowed to use the hall of the Noah Webster Library for its meetings. The membership at that time was 34, with an available list of 353 candidates. In 1922, Leonard W. Wessell was elected Commander and Charles Doran, Adjutant. The Post was very active at that time in building up its membership. Herbert G. Bissell was appointed first Service Officer, whose duties were to look after the disabled soldiers and their families. The post cooperated with Mr. Benjamin Miller, who was interested in getting a new floor for the Town Hall. The year 1922 was the first time that the Post sold poppies on Memorial Day and participated in the exercises.

In 1923 Colonel Frank Harden was elected Commander, but soon after left town and Richard J. Hughes was elected to that position. He served for two terms. Charles Doran was elected Adjutant Commander and served for one term. Lewis B. Codding was his second. The Auxiliary was organized in 1923. During Commander Hughes' terms of service, public exercises were held on Memorial Day for the school children of the town, in the form of dancing and outdoor exercises. Also during that

period the Post was very active in trying to secure a suitable room in the Town Hall for holding its meetings.

In 1925 Edward D. Gustafson was elected Commander, with Earl Panzer as Adjutant. During his term of service, the Post was interested in securing an endowment fund for the children of needy ex-soldiers, in connection with a National movement. Five million dollars was raised by the American Legion for the purpose of caring for all disabled ex-soldiers and their families.

The Legion's first annual fair was held in the Town Hall in December, 1924. Leonard D. Fisk was elected Commander, with Earl Panzer as his Adjutant. The Post at this time attained a membership of 100, and efforts were made to purchase the portable school building which was then on the Fern Street school site, but without success. They assisted in sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop. The next Commander, elected in 1927, was Reuben T. Bassett, with Earl Panzer as Adjutant. During this year the Post bought two building lots on Seyms Street and planned a drive to raise funds for the erection of a building. Frederick D. Chamberlin was elected Commander, with Leonard D. Fisk as his Adjutant for 1928. The drive for securing funds was started and quite a sum was raised. The membership of the Post increased to 161 members. The Post organized Boy Scout Troop No. 64 in connection with the Fern Street School.

HAYES-VELHAGE MEMORIAL HALL

The welfare work in behalf of those needing assistance has been in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard D. Fisk, Jr. In 1829 the plan of awarding medals to Junior High School pupils for the writing of papers on patriotic subjects was inaugurated under the direction of Mrs. Earl Rogers, president of the Auxiliary.

In 1929 R. Melvin Merrill was elected Commander and David Hastings, Adjutant, but on account of his removal from town soon after, the duties of that position were performed by H. G. Bissell. On May 24, 1929, ground was broken on Seyms Street for a building to be devoted to the uses of the Post. The corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies June 15, 1929, in the presence of a large company of people. The principal address was delivered by Lieut. Col. Clarence C. Scarborough.

The building was dedicated October 25, 1929, Commander Merrill presiding. The exercises were as follows: Prayer by Rev. Walter H. Gray; reading of names of men who died in the World War service, by Herbert G. Bissell; a floral tribute presented by members of the West Hartford Boy and Girl Scout troops, each one depositing a flower; brief addresses by Henry W. Burrill, Civil War Veteran; W. H. Hall, Supt. Emeritus of Public Schools; Benjamin I. Miller, Chairman of Board of Trustees; P. A. Seaton, State Commander; and Anson T. McCook, Honorary Post Commander, whose address was the principal one of the occasion. Mrs. Ethel Panzer, Mrs. Agnes C. Welles, and Earl Panzer also made brief addresses as representatives of organizations and committees. Reuben T. Bassett, the Chairman of the Building Committee, turned over the building to Commander M. L. Merrill, who formally dedicated it to the purposes for which it had been erected.

The provisions of the deed of the property are such that whenever it ceases to be used by The Hayes-Velhage Post it is to become the property of the Town of West Hartford for use in patriotic community interests.

The following is a list of the young men of West Hartford who died in the World war: F. Beccaccini, T. W. Birmingham, W. C. Brown, Jr., E. E. Carpenter, D. B. Cowles, W. F. Dear, F. S. Echols, P. Giovannio, W. P. Grennan, Jr., E. W. Gustafson, W. C. Hayes, J. H. Johnson, P. T. Loescher, J. S. Lynch, V. C. Maloney, R. E. Mitchell, L. H. Moody, C. C. Robinson, C. McLean Smith, J. A. Steele, F. B. Velhage, W. R. Walton, T. Wester.

INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE IN MORE RECENT TIMES

I. Dairying, Market Gardening, Etc.

Dairying. As early as 1860 some of the West Hartford farmers had abandoned the practice of producing butter for the Hartford market and were delivering milk daily to Hartford

families. This marked a decided change in the farm life from the somewhat leisurely practice of delivering butter on weekly market days, and the neighborly meetings and greetings at the stores, to the daily early morning rising, the driving to the city in all sorts of weather over roads that were not always in good condition, and the going from house to house, here and there, on different streets, and usually in different sections of the city, and pouring the milk from a tin can with a spout into pails, pitchers, basins, bowls, and other receptacles which had been placed by the housewives on the back porches or steps, each receptacle containing a ticket or tickets indicating the quantity of milk desired. This delivery of milk to customers usually occupied the entire forenoon. One milkman, D. D. Monroe, who delivered milk from Sunset Farm, which was located near Reservoir No. 1 in the western part of the town, had an afternoon route which he continued successfully for twenty-eight years. In addition to those farmers who delivered milk from their own dairies, other men who had milk routes purchased their supply from farmers in different parts of the town or other towns, in some cases towns to the westward over the Talcott Mountain range.

Some of the milkmen made a remarkable record with respect to the length of time in which they were engaged in the business, as well as in regard to the regularity with which they conducted it. One of these was Willis M. Flagg, whose farm was near the west end of Flagg Road in the northern part of the town. He delivered milk in Hartford for thirty years, seldom missing a day. Another milkman was John Ellsworth, whose farm was on Mountain Road north of Footes' Corner. He also conducted the business for thirty years, losing on account of illness or absence from home an average of only one day a year for each of the thirty years. So regular was he in his habits and service that he did not vary from day to day in the time of his passing any one point on his way to Hartford in the morning or on his return to his home.

Most of the milkmen at first used high open wagons and consequently were exposed to storms and the severe cold of the winters. Later, covered wagons came into use and finally low-down, covered wagons, which were much more convenient and comfortable, but even then the life of a milkman was one of cruel exposure.

While the business of delivering milk to Hartford families by West Hartford milkmen continued for many years and is still continued in a limited way, there was a period beginning about forty years ago when the dairying interests of the community centered to a considerable extent in the establishment and maintenance of two creameries. One of these was on the Vine Hill Farm property on the west side of South Quaker Lane

AN OLD-TIME MILK-CART

near the former site of the Talcott Woolen Mill. This was owned and operated by the Vine Hill Farm Corporation under the general management of Mr. Frank H. Stadtmueller. The other was called the Highland Creamery. The building was located on the west side of Mountain Road just south of Albany Turnpike, and is still standing, although used for other purposes. This creamery was supplied to a large measure from the farms in that section of the town from which in the earlier years many Hartford families had been supplied with butter of a superior quality. The principal proprietors and patrons of this creamery were Timothy Sedgwick, Emerson A. Whiting, Franklin Sisson, Morgan Goodwin. A successful business was carried on for several years under their direction.

The Wales L. Andrews Market Gardens at Elmwood. In 1817 Wales L. Andrews, who owned and occupied the house and adjoining land on the south side of New Britain Avenue at the corner of Grove Street which had been known as the Samuel Talcott place, started the market garden business in a comparatively small way. Four years later he built a small greenhouse on the premises. In 1884, when the business had increased greatly, he built three additional greenhouses. He conducted the business until his death in 1908. His daughter, Mrs. Grace

Andrews Henry, then took charge, enlarging the greenhouse equipment and employing twelve workmen. In connection with the cultivation on a large scale of other vegetables, a specialty was made of cucumbers grown under glass. Mrs. Henry disposed of the business and retired a few years ago, and it is now conducted by R. N. Andrews, who devotes attention mainly to the production and marketing of flowers.

The Whiting Nurseries and Greenhouses. About 1844 Emerson A. Whiting and his brother Alfred, sons of Allen Whiting, started a nursery for the cultivation and sale of trees and shrubs. It was located on Albany Turnpike in the northwestern section of West Hartford. They were accustomed to make journeys to Canada each year for purchase of stock.

About 1851, Alfred Whiting removed to the eastern part of the town and purchased a tract of land on the south side of Farmington Turnpike some distance east of Quaker Lane, for the purpose of establishing a nursery business there. He built a house quite a distance south of Farmington Turnpike, and he and his neighbors on the east, the Arnold Brothers, opened a driveway or lane from Farmington Avenue to the house. This road now forms a part of the street known as Whiting Lane. Here he established a prosperous nursery business. He furnished fruit trees for many of the farms in this section of the State, and shade or ornamental trees for the private grounds of residents of the city and its suburbs. Many large and beautiful trees still standing on private grounds and on the sides of the streets were planted by him.

In 1852 he built a small greenhouse for floriculture, thus establishing a new line which increased from year to year, requiring additional greenhouses until he had about two acres under glass, and his establishment became one of the largest of its kind in this region. Mr. Whiting was in reality a pioneer in the florist profession in New England, widely known and highly esteemed for his sterling character and his business integrity as well as for the products of his greenhouses. During his career he had in his employ a number of young men who under his tutelage acquired skill in the business and afterwards conducted a flourishing business of their own. Among those who thus graduated under him were D. A. Spear and John Coombs, well known florists of Hartford. Mr. Whiting's daughter, Miss Helen F. Whiting, was deeply interested in her father's business and of great assistance to him during the later years of his life.

Mr. Whiting was a generous-hearted man, greatly interested in the progress and development of the town, and although never seeking public office or position, a truly public spirited progressive citizen.

In 1898 Mr. Carl Peterson entered Mr. Whiting's employ as foreman. Mr. Peterson is a graduate of Rosedahl College in Sweden and learned the florist business in Sweden before coming to this country. He continued to serve as foreman until Mr. Whiting's death, manifesting a deep interest in the business and rendering efficient service. After Mr. Whiting's death he leased the greenhouses and business of Miss Whiting and conducted it successfully until 1919, retaining the name Whiting Greenhouses in honor of the founder of the business, and maintaining its well established reputation. In 1919, he purchased the property and business of Miss Whiting. At that time it consisted of nine acres of land and buildings. The greenhouses cover a large part of this. He admitted his son Carl Eric Peterson as a partner in the business, which is still conducted under its former name, with increasing prosperity and success.

The Paul Thomson Market Gardens. In 1871 Paul Thomson, a native of Scotland, came to West Hartford, and for a year in the employ of Joseph W. Davenport, an extensive farmer and fruit grower whose farm was on New Britain Avenue at the corner of the old road to Newington, just west of the Sarah Whitman Hooker home. In 1872 Mr. Thomson purchased of James B. Powell, a Hartford banker, a farm at the corner of West Hartford Main Street and Park Road, which had formerly been the property of Dr. Warren S. Crane. At first Mr. Thomson devoted his attention to the cultivation of tobacco and vegetables but soon developed an extensive market garden business, supplying vegetables for the wholesale trade of Hartford. He conducted this business in an efficient, successful manner until 1899, when he built a greenhouse and turned his attention to the cultivation of flowers, making a specialty of English violets and laying the foundation for the business which has since been carried on in a larger way by his sons.

Mr. Thomson was an active citizen of the town, public spirited and deeply interested in its welfare and growth. He was particularly interested in the West Hartford Congregational Church and the West Hartford Grange, being an active worker in both.

The W. W. Thomson Company. The W. W. Thomson Co., now one of the largest and most progressive industries in the town, dates back to July, 1914, in actual existence as a corporation, but much further in reality as a business.

It was an outgrowth of two greenhouse establishments which were owned by W. W. Thomson at 78 Meadowbrook Road (formerly Vera St.) and Paul Thomson, his father, at 142 South

Main Street. The history of the Main Street property up to the time of Paul Thomson's death in 1909 appears elsewhere. After that time it was run as an estate for several months under the direct management of one of the sons, R. Roy Thomson. It was then merged with the business already started by W. Wallace Thomson at Meadowbrook Road and run under his name till 1914, when a corporation was formed with W. Wallace Thomson as president and treasurer, R. Roy Thomson vice-president, and H. J. Miller secretary.

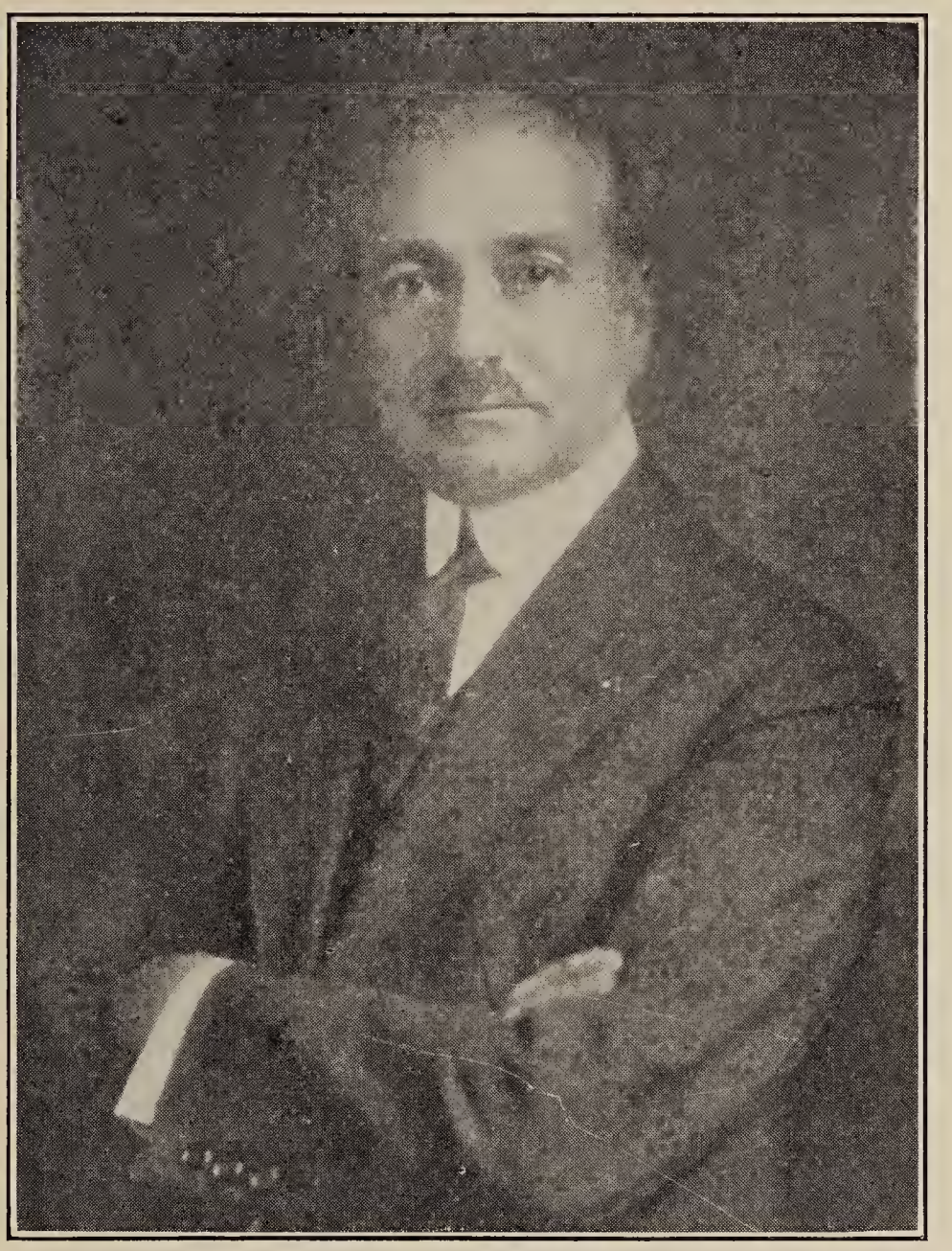
The business at Meadowbrook Road dates back to 1904, at which time Mr. W. W. Thomson started a greenhouse at that location for the purpose of raising violets. Other houses were added from time to time and other varieties of flowers added to the list at both places, so that at the present time there are at Meadowbrook Road six houses and at Main Street eleven houses. The total area of glass in all these greenhouses is fully one hundred thousand square feet. The company now raises a general line of plants and cut flowers. Their principal crops, however, are sweet peas and carnations, for which a large wholesale trade has been developed.

In addition to this wholesale trade, the company has a growing retail business at its South Main Street place, and eventually this branch of the business will probably utilize all the flowers produced. In the cultivation, production, and sale of the flowers a force of twenty-five to thirty persons is employed.

The Trout Brook Ice and Feed Company. More than a hundred years ago there was a water privilege and millsite at the foot of the hill east of West Hartford Center on the bank of the Noyes River. In 1827 Thomas Brace and Lory Brace, administrators of the estate of Lory Brace, sold to Lucius Nichols for $600, twelve rods of land with a gristmill and other appurtenances thereon. This property was bounded on the east by the brook, on the south by the highway, on the west by land belonging to the heirs of Nathaniel Smith, and on the north by land of Betsey Colton. At a later period, about 1850, a sawmill was in operation in connection with the gristmill. Mr. Thomas Brace once told me that the Stanleys and Norths at one time wished to buy the water privilege and establish their shops there. The price put upon the property was so high, however, that they did not purchase it but located later in New Britain.

The property had several successive owners and was used for various purposes. At one time it was a wood-turning shop and later a wagon shop and blacksmith shop. Eventually it came into the possession of Seth L. Gilbert, who operated the gristmill but leased the wagon and blacksmith shop. A dwelling house was located on the property west of the mill, in which the miller and his family lived.

In 1879 Edwin H. Arnold purchased the property of Mr. Gilbert for $4,000 and proceeded to establish the ice business, delivering daily to customers in Hartford and West Hartford. He purchased additional land of Samuel Whitman upon which he erected his ice houses. He also continued and enlarged the grain and feed business. In 1890 the Trout Brook Ice and Feed Company was incorporated, and in 1894 Frederick W. Arnold, Mr. Arnold's son, was admitted to the partnership with a half interest. The business increased rapidly so that it soon became



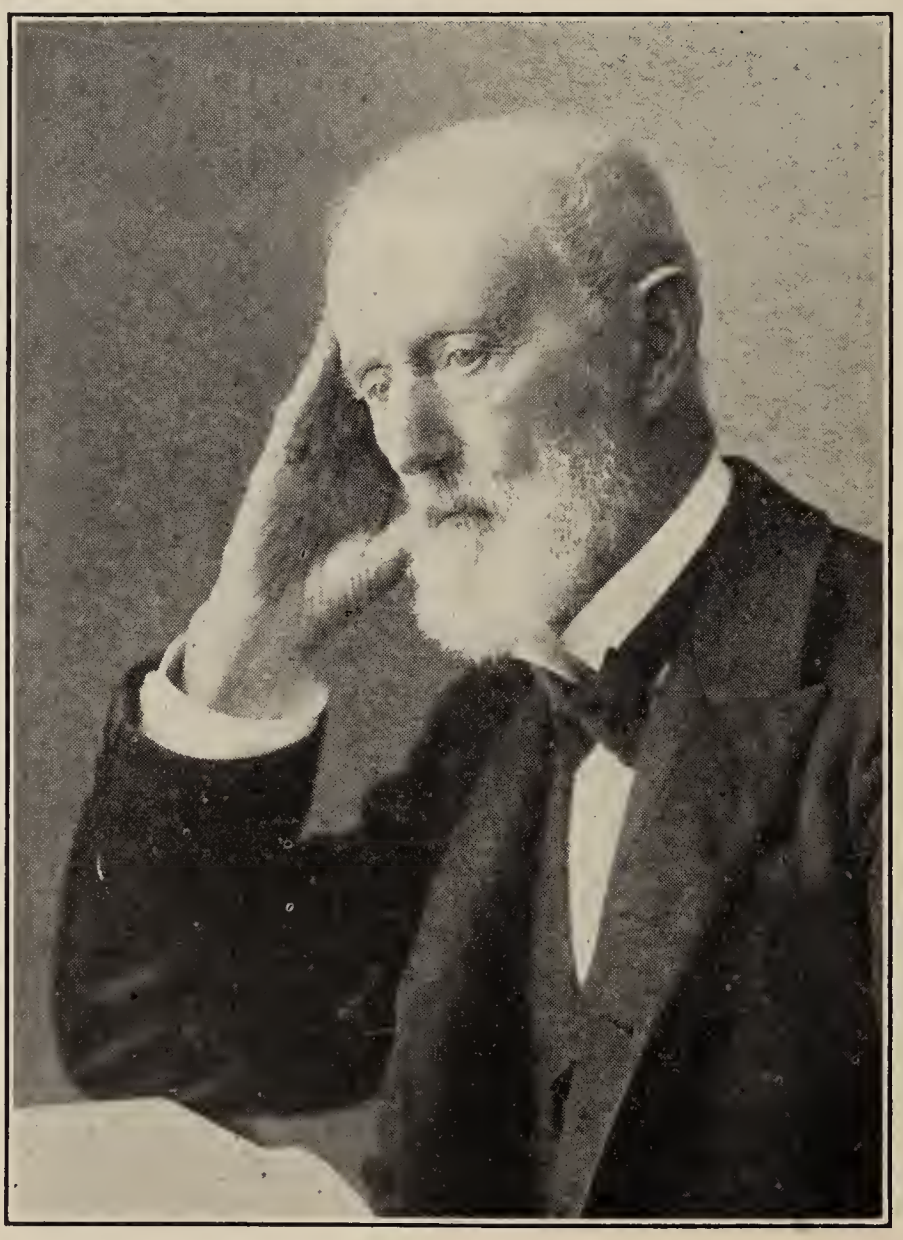
FREDERICK W. ARNOLD

necessary to secure a larger area for the harvesting of ice, and for that purpose the large Greenwoods Lake in New Hartford was leased. On two occasions the company, in addition to supplying its regular customers, shipped fifty car-loads of ice daily to New York City.

In 1912 a tract of 150 acres in the southwestern part of West Hartford and the southeastern part of Hartford was pur-

chased, a large ice pond created, a concrete ice house erected, and a railroad constructed from Farmington Avenue west of Mountain Road to the pond. Cars were purchased and the ice transported daily to West Hartford Center and other points. In 1927 the business was sold to the Southern New England Ice Company, by whom it is now carried on.

Mr. Frederick W. Arnold, by whose enterprise and fine business abilities the ice business in West Hartford has been built up, still retains an interest in the new organization, and is also financially identified with ice cream companies operating in Hartford and vicinity. He also retains ownership of a considerable part of the property originally purchased at Trout Brook of Mr. Gilbert.



JOSEPH BISHOP AT NINETY

Tobacco Packing. During a period of years when the farmers of the Connecticut Valley were extensively cultivating tobacco, Joseph Bishop conducted a flourishing business in buying and packing tobacco. In 1858 he built a warehouse just east of his

residence on the north side of Albany Turnpike near its intersection with West Hartford Main Street. Oswin Welles of Glastonbury was interested financially with Mr. Bishop in the business, although he did not participate actively in its management. Mr. Bishop was accustomed to drive through the country towns inspecting the farmers' crops of tobacco and purchasing the same to be delivered later at his warehouse ready for packing. Through this experience he became one of the best known citizens of West Hartford and of Connecticut.

In 1871 Mr. Bishop admitted his son William H. Bishop and his son-in-law Charles S. Griswold into partnership with him under the firm name of Joseph Bishop & Sons, and the business

JOSEPH BISHOP'S TOBACCO WAREHOUSE
(CHARLES S. GRISWOLD IN BUGGY)

was greatly increased. This partnership continued until 1880 when Charles S. Griswold became the sole proprietor. In 1890 he admitted his son Charles A. Griswold into partnership; then the firm became C. S. Griswold & Son and so continued until the death of the senior member in 1916. The business was then conducted by Charles A. Griswold until 1924, when he retired from active business. The original warehouse was enlarged during the progress of the business and the force of employees engaged in sorting and packing the tobacco was increased from ten to fifty. During the years when the largest amount of business was carried on it amounted to $100,000 a year.

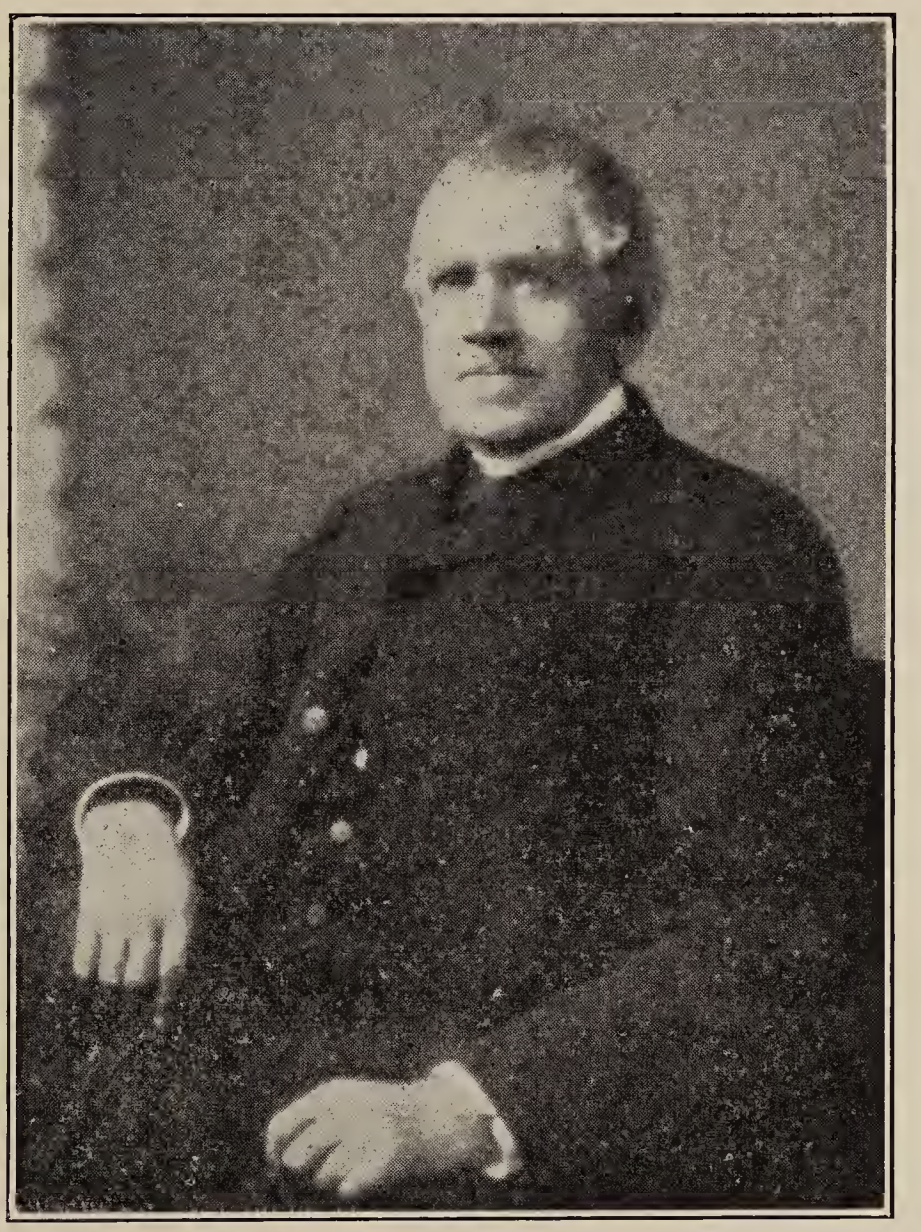
II. Manufacturing

Talcott Woolen Mill. In 1828 Samuel Talcott built a mill for the manufacture of woolen cloth. It was located on the west side of Quaker Lane near the point where the Noyes river or Trout Brook crosses the road. In connection with the mill there were other buildings consisting of a fulling shop where the cloth was dressed ready for market, storage rooms, etc. The small iron-covered building still standing near the road in that locality was a part of the woolen mill plant. This business was successfully conducted for many years by Mr. Talcott and his sons. The Elmwood Creamery and the Grist mill were erected on this property by the Vine Hill Farm Company after the woolen mill had disappeared, and still remain although not used for the purposes for which they were erected.

Goodwin pottery. The manufacture of earthenware was at one time a flourishing industry in the southern part of the town. The clay which abounded in that locality was of superior quality for such purposes. Thomas O. Goodwin for many years maintained a pottery on the north side of the road at the foot of Four Mile Hill. The house which he built in 1821 for his residence just east of the pottery is still standing.

HOME OF THOMAS O. GOODWIN, ELMWOOD, BUILT IN 1821

In 1832 Harvey Goodwin had a pottery still farther east on the south side of the road east of the present location of South Street. It was customary to make up a load of earthenware and then start out with a horse and wagon on a journey from town to town for the purpose of disposing of the goods wherever customers could be found. Sometimes the journey up the valley of the Connecticut River would extend as far as Vermont. When the load had been disposed of, the return journey would be made



HARRY GOODWIN, PROPRIETOR OF POTTERY, 1823

as hastily as possible and another lot of earthenware would be made, preparatory to a journey in some other direction. Harvey Goodwin conducted his business until 1867. At that time his shop was destroyed by fire.

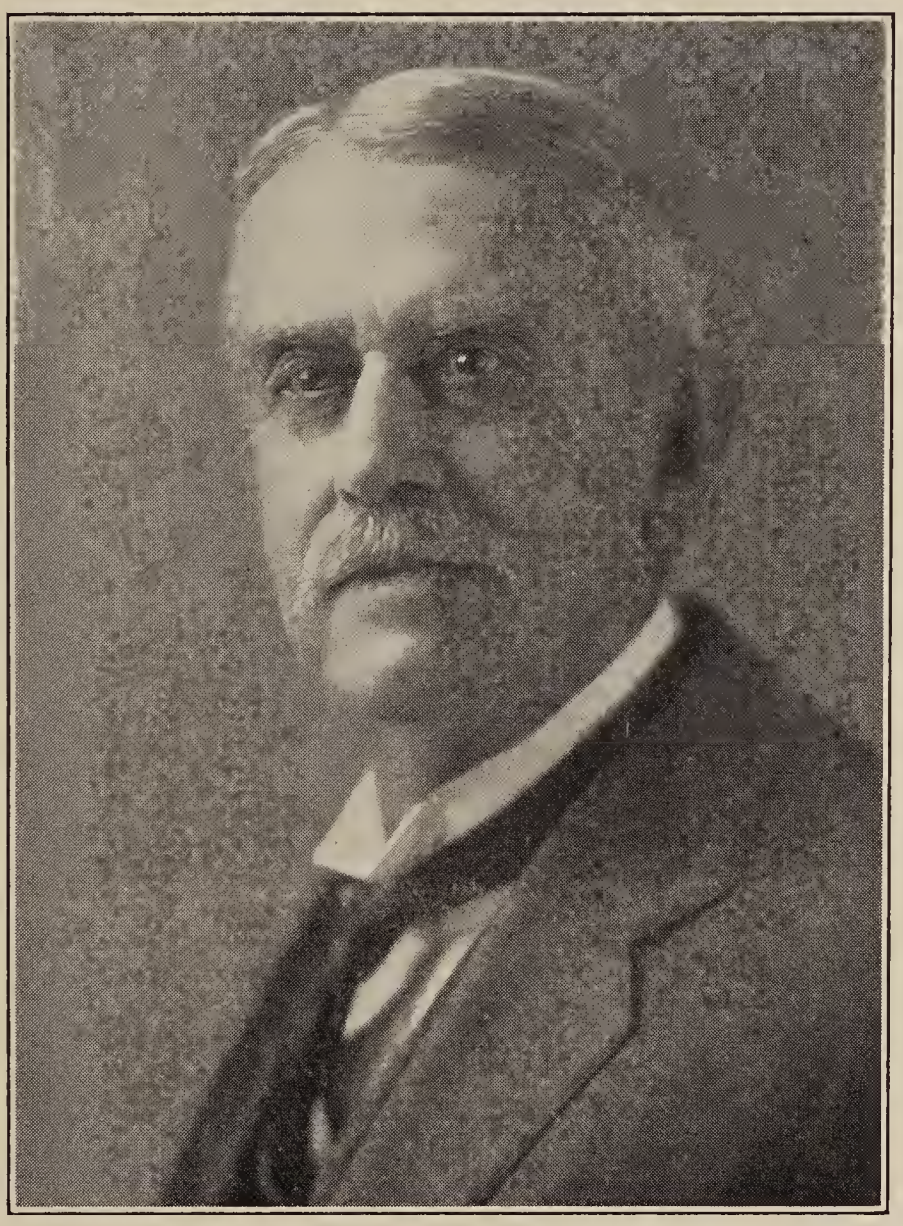
His sons, H. Burdette Goodwin, Wilbur E. Goodwin, and Newell E. Goodwin, then proposed to take up the business under the name of Goodwin Brothers Pottery Company. They purchased of Charles Cadwell about three acres of land with a small building located on the south side of the road just west of the

JUGS AND JAR MADE IN THE GOODWIN POTTERIES

N. Y., N. H. & H. Railroad, erected a larger building at once, and proceeded to do business on a larger scale. They added to the manufacture of the ordinary forms of pottery, the production of terra cotta goods in various forms of beautiful design, and eventually increased their plant to embrace a group of buildings covering several acres on the south side of New Britain Avenue west of the railroad tracks. They developed a large business, employing salesmen whose operations extended across the continent.

GOODWIN BROS. POTTERY AT TIME WHEN IT WAS BURNED.

In 1908 a fire broke out in one of the buildings. As facilities for extinguishing fires in West Hartford were at that time inadequate, an appeal was made to the fire department of Hartford, which promptly responded, but in spite of its efforts the entire plant was destroyed with the exception of a small brick office building, which still remains but in a changed location and form.



H. BURDETTE GOODWIN, PRESIDENT OF GOODWIN BROTHERS' POTTERY

Mr. H. Burdette Goodwin, the president of the company, died at his home in West Hartford, on his 84th birthday on November 30, 1929.

Brick Yards. There were several brick yards in the southern section of the town in which excellent bricks were made from the clay which abounded there. Some of the old houses still standing and in use in that locality were constructed from brick made in those yards.

WHITLOCK COIL PIPE FACTORY

The Whitlock Coil Pipe Company. In 1892 thirty-five men in West Hartford organized the Whitlock Coil Pipe Company for the purpose of manufacturing products made of coiled or bent pipe and tubing, and, in particular, a special type of feed water heater for use in connection with steam boilers.

The plant was located on South Street in Elmwood, and at first consisted of a single building. At the present time it embraces two large main manufacturing buildings, an office building, and several smaller structures, and covers a total area of between three and four acres.

The first board of directors consisted of the following, who were elected at the first stockholders' meeting held on October 21, 1891; W. E. Goodwin of West Hartford, F. C. Rockwell of West Hartford, H. H. Francis of Hartford, E. W. Whitlock of New Haven, W. L. Shepard of West Hartford.

Today the products of the Company may be broadly defined as heat transfer equipment; that is, apparatus for effecting the transfer of heat from one liquid or gas to another. The

breadth of application of such equipment is indicated by the fact that it is used in practically every industry in the country, in practically every building of any kind whatever. In every hotel, every large apartment house, in all Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. buildings, in the thousands of colleges and schools, in the tens of thousands of office buildings, in all institutions such as hospitals, asylums, and so on, are what are known as hot water service heaters. Whitlock Heaters are installed in thousands of such buildings, among them many of the largest of their kind in the United States, as well as many in foreign countries. From the huge Hotel Pennsylvania in New York to the Union Medical College in Pekin, China, and from the Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal to the Sevilla-Biltmore in Havana, Cuba, Whitlock Service Water Heaters are contributing their part toward the comfort of millions of people.

During the last five years in particular, the scope of the Company's activities has markedly broadened, bringing it into the field of manufacturing heaters and heat exchangers for what are broadly known as the "process industries" — that is, industries using, in connection with the manufacture of their products, processes of a more or less chemical nature, such as the textiles, the preparation and manufacture of food products, dairies and creameries, power laundries, etc.

The presidents who have held office since the founding of the Company, with the dates of their service, are as follows: W. E. Goodwin, 1891-1894; W. L. Shepard, 1894-1899; C. E. Beach, 1899-1925; J. L. Goodwin, 1925 to present date. The present chairman of the board is Mr. C. E. Beach, who has served on the board of directors and as president and chairman since 1898. The officers of the Company at the present time are: J. L. Goodwin, president and treasurer; W. C. Beekley, vice-president and secretary; W. L. Howard, assistant treasurer.

The Abbott Ball Bearing Manufacturing Plant. In 1912 George E. Abbott, a skilled and experienced machinist and inventor, established a plant for the manufacturing of a superior quality of ball bearing balls, in a building erected for that purpose on the south side of New Britain Avenue at Elmwood, west of the N. Y., N. H. & H. Railroad. He began business with six employees, devoting his own personal attention in an efficient manner to the conduct and development of the business, which increased so that it soon became necessary to erect additional buildings and employ a large force of workmen. This business has now attained such proportions, requiring the services of seventy persons and producing 900,000 lbs. of balls annually, that it is recognized as one of the leading manufacturing establishments of West Hartford.

SPENCER TURBINE COMPANY

The Spencer Turbine Co. The history of the Spencer Turbine Company can be traced to 1892 when Mr. Ira Hobart Spencer was employed by E. H. Betts, wholesale grocer. To augment his income at that time, Mr. Spencer took care of St. James' Church, Hartford, where it was a part of his duty to blow the organ every Sunday. In connection with his work at St. James' Church, he built an hydraulic engine to automatically blow the organ, and as the water supply pipe in the church was only the usual small house-supply pipe, it was necessary to make a most efficient engine to secure sufficient power with such a small service pipe. This high efficiency was the foundation for the present Spencer Turbine Company.

Following the water motor, there was developed the differential duplex rotary motor, and then came the piston blowers, which were usually driven by a water or an electric motor.

The Spencer Motor Company later became the Organ Power Company, and as electricity came into more general use, the trend of the times was directed towards electrically driven pumps and blowers for pipe organs; so in 1904 Mr. Spencer brought out the electric organ blower known as the Orgoblo, on which has been built up the largest business of its kind in the world. Mr. Spencer guided the work through the early experimental stages and later development until today there are electric blowers suitable for every organ requirement. The Orgoblo is recommended and installed by most of the principal organ builders throughout the United States and in many foreign countries. Practically every great American organ is blown by an Orgoblo, as well as over 25,000 church and theatre organs.

In 1905 Mr. Spencer brought out the turbine vacuum cleaner or Central Cleaning System. In 1907 the Spencer Turbine Cleaner Company was organized and in 1918 the Organ Power Company and the Spencer Turbine Cleaner Company were merged into the Spencer Turbine Company.

The central cleaning systems are installed in thousands of

the largest and finest buildings in the United States, collecting all the dust and dirt from the many acres of floor space in these immense buildings and conveying it through pipes to the central receiver in the basement. It is standard equipment in leading schools, hotels, theatres, office buildings, etc., and is also increasingly being used for industrial applications.

The last of the three specialty lines developed by Mr. Spencer was the multi-stage turbo centrifugal air compressor, which is widely used for operating pneumatic tube systems in leading stores and business buildings; for supplying air for industrial oil and gas burning furnaces in heat treating; in forge shops; foundry cupolas, etc.

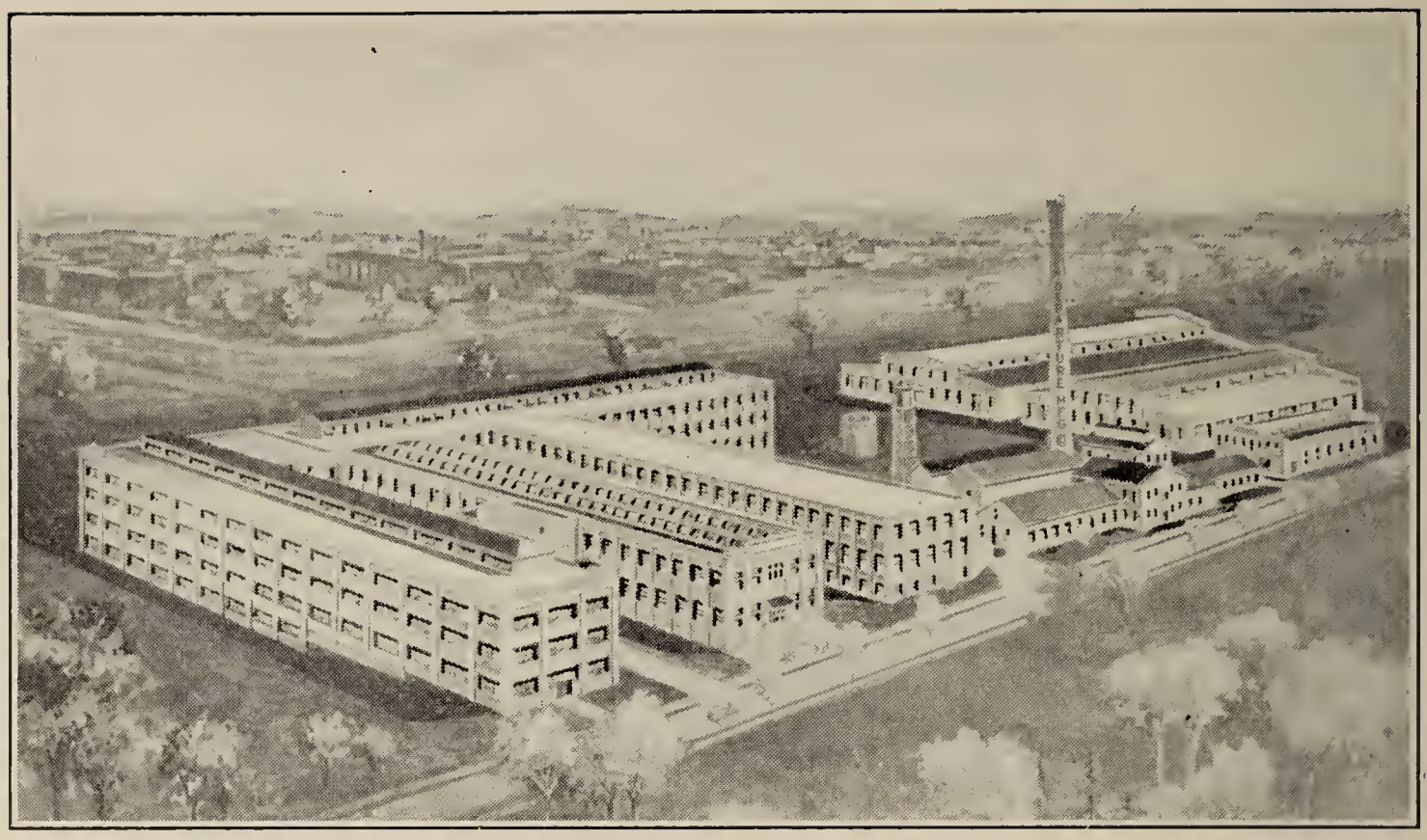
Mr. Spencer was widely acknowledged as one of the leading authorities on low pressure air engineering in the United States and took out about 100 patents. Each of the three lines is a recognized leader in its field and has won the highest award in every exposition entered. Mr. Ira H. Spencer died on April 28, 1928, in his 54th year, with a record of achievement granted to but few men.

The above concern was located in Hartford until January, 1919, when it moved into its new factory at 484 New Park Avenue, West Hartford, where with the several additions since erected it has the largest and best equipped manufacturing plant in its lines in the world, and at the present time employs about 150 people with a total annual production valued at nearly $2,000,000.

The officers of the company at the present time are as follows: S. E. Phillips, president; J. M. Lord, vice-president; H. H. Richardson, secretary and treasurer; F. N. Cooke, assistant treasurer; W. V. Paine, chief engineer.

Hartford Division of the New Departure Co. This Division of the New Departure Company was established at Elmwood early in 1913 after purchase of land and buildings from the Whitlock Coil Pipe Company. The main offices and factories of this Company are located in Bristol, Conn.

At the outset, the factory at Elmwood manufactured ball bearing shaft hangers, but in the summer of 1913 began the manufacture of small ball bearings. Mr. Hugh Rockwell became the first manager, and was succeeded in 1914 by Charles M. Gearing. Early in 1914, after the bearing business had made a start, the factory was producing some 5000 bearings a day of perhaps half a dozen sizes. The employees numbered at this time about 300. Under Mr. Gearing's management, the business expanded until in 1917 about 8000 to 9000 bearings were turned out daily. Through Mr. Gearing's agency, the New Departure Company purchased a large tract of land lying between the railroad and



NEW DEPARTURE CO. WORKS

Newington Road. Most of this tract was subsequently developed into some 150 house lots. Employees of the Company were given concessions in the purchase of lots as an encouragement in home owning and thrift. At this writing (1929), this large tract is almost completely built up.

The business for the Elmwood factory increased and more floor space became necessary. New construction, chiefly in 1919, but some previous to that, about doubled the floor capacity. The production had steadily increased up to 12,000 per day, with about 600 persons employed.

Mr. S. E. Stockwell became manager late in 1919, and during his regime from 1919 to 1929 the factory experienced an enormous increase in business. Much new and improved machinery was added, the number of employees steadily increased, and the number of sizes of bearings produced was several times multiplied. In the early part of 1929 the number of employees reached somewhat over 1100, the number of sizes of bearings made ran up to 70, and production had exceeded 47000 bearings a day.

Towards the middle of 1929, Mr. Milton Gearing, son of Charles Gearing, became plant manager, and considerable reorganization took place in preparation for a possible still larger business.

The Elmwood factory, being a division of the New Departure Company, is part of a unit of the great General Motors Corporation and therefore benefits from the buying power and research facilities of that corporation. It is also able to share in

the benefits of the General Motors Savings and Investment Plan and group insurance plan which carries a sick benefit provision. Membership in the Savings and Investment Plan, which has returned to employees their money many fold for classes already matured, has enabled many an employee at the Elmwood factory to take a long step toward owning a home, or laying by a little competence, or enjoying more of the comforts of life than would otherwise have been his.

III. Miscellaneous

The West Hartford Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In 1859, five years after West Hartford became a separate town, an act was secured from the General Assembly incorporating a fire insurance company with the above title. Benjamin Gilbert, Hezekiah G. Webster, David White and Chester Griswold appear to have been prominent in securing this act.

From a statement issued at the close of the second year of the company's existence, January first 1861, it appears that at that time the company had issued eighty-three policies insuring property to the amount of $83,612.25. The list of persons whose property was insured, with the amount of insurance on each piece of property, is as follows:

Elizur Cadwell	$1,612.	Benjamin Gilbert	$700.
F. L. Olmsted	600.	George W. Cadwell	600.
John McLean	1,000.	Thomas Brace	750.
John Ellsworth	750.	Josiah Raymond	120.
Allen S. Griswold	590.	Horace K. Seymour	1,281.
Chester Elmer	525.	Bissell & Seymour	1,650.
Gurdon Flagg	950.	Julius Steele	1,200.
Emerson A. Whiting	200.	Mason Seymour	1,200.
James F. Butler	577.	Leonard Buckland	275.
Sherman S. Steele	750.	Zephaniah Alden	3,000.
Edwin B. Griswold	600.	Edward Stanley	750.
Fred J. Butler	550.	Amos Hurlburt	700.
Charles S. Mills	1,800.	Eber Gridley	1,837.50
Chester Francis	1,000.	Eben Steele	567.
Joseph C. Sisson	1,700.	George W. Seymour	400.
Philip G. Parsons	275.	George Butler	800.
Ruth F. Whitford	600.	Nathan Burr	771.
Chester Griswold	188.	Joel E. Rood	150.
George N. Whiting	300.	Oliver S. Elmer	1,400.
Charles Ramsey	1,600.	Ralph Flagg	1,475.
William Sedgwick	1,800.	Homer Wells	600.
Benj. F. Bissell	800.	Samuel A. Griswold	1,100.
Joseph E. Brace	675.	Sherman S. Steele	1,950.
Thomas Brace	1,325.	Philip Corbin	1,000.
Reuben Hamlin	250.	Roderick Colton	1,000.

James M. Cadwell	875.	Edgar H. Seymour	1,800.
George W. Seymour	450.	David Selden	750.
Josiah Raymond	431.25	Chester Griswold	1,150.
Charles S. Griswold	1,150.	J. F. Butler	1,000.
Benjamin Gilbert	300.	Lucius Elmer	900.
Nathan Gilbert	1,150.	Allyn Burr	710.
Emma Seymour	900.	Emerson A. Whiting	2,000.
Edw'd Selden, admin.	2,000.	Hannah Ellsworth	3,500.
George Flagg	1,650.	Philip G. Parsons	1,150.
Joseph C. Sisson	1,200.	Joel E. Rood	3,600.
Arthur Hosmer	1,200.	Milton Braman	1,200.
Sherman S. Steele	500.	Allen S. Griswold	1,500.
Paphro Steele	1,000.	Josiah Raymond	637.50
Mary Woodworth	400.	William Storer	2,040.
John McLean	675.	Dudley Allen	1,500.
			$83,612.25

This annual report called attention to the prosperous condition of the company and stated that none of the officers received salaries, that it "had never lost a single dollar," and that in view of all the facts the board of directors felt confident that if there was a safe and economical insurance company in the country it must be the WEST HARTFORD MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, and that they thought that their fellow citizens must agree with them in this opinion. The report was signed in behalf of the directors by Leonard Buckland, clerk.

No further records of the company are at hand, and it is not definitely known how long it continued in existence; but there is a tradition that after a fire had occurred destroying one of the houses which the company had insured, it went out of business. While the existence of this company for such a brief period did not contribute materially to the history of the town, it is worthy of notice as an evidence of the enterprising spirit of some of the citizens of the community at that time.

The Comet. The Comet was the name chosen for a newspaper published monthly in West Hartford fifty years ago. Its motto was "Independent in Spirit, Serving No Clan or Party."

In the issue for February, 1880, the following announcement appeared:

TO THE PUBLIC GENERALLY AND TO THE PEOPLE OF WEST HARTFORD AND VICINITY IN PARTICULAR

The Comet, enlarged and improved, will hereafter make a specialty of having Local News. We have secured able correspondents from the surrounding towns who will furnish general news, items of interest, etc. Besides this feature, The Comet will contain scientific articles, adventures, essays, poems, editorials, girls' department, etc., etc.

You are respectfully invited to subscribe. The subscription price is fifty cents per year. Communications will reach us promptly if addressed to The Comet, West Hartford, Connecticut. Subscriptions will also be received by M. S. Buckland at the West Hartford Post Office, and by the agents who canvass for us.

Respectfully,
Robbins Brothers

In the issue above referred to, the following advertisements appear:

L. Buckland, dealer of fine groceries, flour, etc.

Mrs. M. A. Eldridge, fashionable dressmaker, also agent for the Howe Sewing Machine, one-fourth of a mile south of Post Office.

The time-table of the Hartford and West Hartford omnibus and Mail route also appears, in which it is stated that the omnibuses leave West Hartford at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., and leave Hartford on return at 9:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Apparently this Comet, like other comets, was not a fixed star, for its publication was not long continued.

The West Hartford Trust Company. During the latter part of the year 1926, enterprising citizens of West Hartford, in recognition of the rapid growth and development of the community, and with clearness of vision with respect to its future, made application for a charter of incorporation for a banking institution to be located at the Center. The bank was incorporated Nov. 16, 1926, with the following list of officers, trustees, etc: President, Roy T. H. Barnes; Vice-President, Huntington P. Meech; Secretary and Treasurer, Clarence A. Boyce; Trustees, Dennis F. Ahern, Roy T. H. Barnes, Austin D. Barney, C. Frederick Beach, Clarence A. Boyce, Myron J. Burnham, Paul M. Butterworth, Francis T. Fenn, A. S. Freeburg, Charles A. Griswold, Henry T. Holt, Kendrick A. Luther, L. P. Waldo Marvin, Huntington P. Meech, Max Myers, Edgar L. Ropkins, C. Gilbert Shepard, E. Terry Smith, M.D., H. Terry Morrison. These officers, with the exception of H. Terry Morrison, continue in office at the present time, 1928.

The bank opened for business Dec. 13, 1926, with a capital stock of $100,000 and a paid in surplus of $125,000. After a year and a half of business it had 4,000 depositors and total assets of $1,600,000. During that period it had paid all expenses of incorporation and management and had a profit of $10,000. The success of the bank fully justifies the wisdom and foresight of its founders and reflects great credit upon the officers who have had the management of its affairs.

WEST HARTFORD TRUST CO., 1926

The bank building is attractive in general appearance and convenient in its adaptation to the needs of its patrons. It is located on the northeast corner of Farmington Avenue and West Hartford Main Street, practically on the site of the second West Hartford post office in 1832.

PARKS AND RESERVOIRS

I. Goodman Park

In 1747 Timothy Goodman, who a few years before had deeded some of his land to the Ecclesiastical Society for the location of a new church building, still further gave evidence of his generosity and patriotism by giving to the Society a parcel of land south of and connected with the church property, to be used as a "parade ground" or park. The deed by which he conveyed this land to the Society is as follows:

"To all People to whom these presents shall come Greeting Know Ye that I Timothy Goodman of Hartford in the County of Hartford and Colony of Connecticut in New England for and in Consideration of a small piece of Land made over to me per the West Society in Hartford per their Committee for that purpose Have given Granted Bargained Conveyed, and by these presents do fully Grant Bargain Convey and Confirm to the West Society in Hartford one certain piece of Land lying in Hartford West Society near their Meeting House Butted and Bounded as followeth North on Land of said Society West on my own Land extending from said Societies Land South to Gideon Butlers East Corner of his lot on the West Side of the Road leading through the said society Butting East on said Road also it being the Land I have lately thrown out of the East End of my Lot by Erecting a new Fence there To Have and to Hold said piece of Land with the Privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to said Societys Own proper Use for a place of Parrade forever.

Furthermore I the said Goodman for myself my Heirs and by these presence do Covenant and Engage to Warrant and defend, the same against all the lawfull Claims and demands of any other Person or Persons whatsoever. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this 24th day of November in the Twenty first Year of his Majestys Reign Anno Dom 1747

Timothy Goodman (Seal)

Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of Us
John Whitman, Adonijah Bidwell

Hartford County April 21st A.D. 1748 personally appeared Timothy Goodman the Grantor, Signer, and Sealer of the above

Instrument and acknowledged the same to be his free Act and Deed

Before Joseph Talcott, *Justice Peace*

Received December 5th 1791 and here Recorded

George Wyllys, *Registrar*

The park was used for many years as a parade ground for the local militia in accordance with the design of the donor and the custom of the times, and in the course of the years many citizens acquired fame as leaders of the local militia in the official positions of colonel, major, or captain. The training days ceased after a while and the local militia paraded the park no more, but some of the prominent leaders retained the titles which they had acquired as long as they lived, and were generally spoken of as Col. Butler, Col. Whiting, Col. Flagg, Major Seymour, Major Bevans, Captain Faxon, Captain Mills, Captain Selden, Captain Goodman, etc. In later years the park was used for Fourth of July celebrations, picnics, and other festive and social purposes, and was a favorite place of resort for merry groups of children on summer afternoons at the close of the afternoon session of the near-by district school.

For several years prior to 1877, it was under the control of the Town on a long term lease, and some improvements were made, including the building of a two-rail white fence around it with entrances without gates on each of the four sides.

In 1877 the Society received notice that James S. Seymour of Auburn, N. Y., a native of West Hartford, had recently died and by his will had bequeathed to the West Hartford Ecclesiastical Society the sum of $2000 to be expended in the improvement of the park and the old cemeteries. Thereupon the Society secured from the town the release of the control of the park, and made the needed improvements. At the present time the park is again in the control of the town under a long-term lease, and marked improvements have again been made, including curbing on all sides, the regarding of the grounds, etc. In connection with the widening of the streets on both sides, the area of the park has been considerably reduced, but it is still an attractive and useful feature of the center of the town.

The Whitman Charter Oak. Mr. Samuel Whitman, who had planted acorns from a descendant of the Charter Oak which he had given to Bushnell Park in Hartford, presented one of the young trees which he had raised to the Ecclesiastical Society, to be planted on Goodman Park in 1895. Henry O. Griswold, Chairman of the Society's Committee planted the tree on May 3, 1895. This grandson of the original "Charter Oak" has now grown to a height of fifty feet and is a fine, shapely tree, representing historically the original Charter Oak, as well as the public spirit and patriotism of Mr. Whitman.

The Constitutional Oak.—the large tree in the left foreground below. In 1902 General Joseph R. Hawley, United States Senator from Connecticut, presented to every town in the State a small oak tree to be planted in some public place in commemoration of the Constitutional Convention held in the State Capitol in Hartford in 1901. The tree presented to the town of West Hartford was planted on Goodman Park on

CHARTER OAK SCION, GROWN AND PRESENTED BY SAMUEL WHITMAN

Memorial Day, May 30, 1902, at the conclusion of the Memorial Day Exercises at the North Cemetery. The tree, which had been sent to William H. Hall, the delegate from West Hartford in the Constitutional Convention, was by him presented to Adolph C. Sternberg, Tree Warden, who accepted it in behalf of the Town of West Hartford. It had been arranged to have the planting done by a few young people representing some of the older prominent families of the town. Henry C. Whitman, Town Clerk, was invited to remove the first shovelful of earth for the excavation. The planting was done by; Edward B. Flagg

representing the Flagg, Root, Selden, and Goodman families; Morris Andrews representing the Andrews, Morris, Butler and Percival families; Helen S. Scarborough representing the Scarborough, Brace, and Colton families; and Ethel Cadwell representing the Cadwell and Gilbert families. After the planting, "America" was sung. The tree is now over fifty-seven feet high and nearly five feet in circumference at the base of its trunk. Itis located on the east side of Goodman Park in a southeasterly direction from the Charter Oak.

The Community Christmas Tree. Near the Constitutional Oak on Goodman Park, is a Douglas Fir evergreen tree which

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

was presented to the Town on May 13, 1929 by the Sarah Whitman Hooker Chapter D.A.R., to be used annually as a Community Christmas Tree. The presentation was made in

connection with public exercises on the park by Mrs. John Allen Roberts, Regent of the Chapter, and the tree was accepted in behalf of the Park Commission of the town by Harold Carey. The tree was presented to the D.A.R. by Dewing Brothers from their farm on Mountain Road.

The Community Flag Pole. In 1916 the members of the Ecclesiastical Society gave some consideration to the matter of placing a flag pole on Goodman Park for the benefit of the community in the display of our national flag on patriotic occasions. Although the matter was favorably regarded, no action was taken with respect to the erection of such a pole. Later, the West Hartford Business Men's Association became interested in the subject. Mr. Harold E. Hitchcock called the attention of the

FLAG-RAISING ON GOODMAN PARK

Association to the subject at one of the meetings and the Association, appreciating his interest responded by appointing a committee to take the matter under consideration. Mr. Hitchcock was chosen chairman. The other members were Leonard J. Collins and Hyman F. Smith.

Mr. Hitchcock communicated with the Ecclesiastical Society with regard to the matter of erecting the pole on Goodman Park and on March 28, 1917, received a communication from the

Society expressing approval, giving consent to the erection of the pole, and specifying some steps to be taken with respect to the removal of trees, the setting of the pole, etc. A vigorous campaign was conducted under Mr. Hitchcock's leadership for securing funds for the purchase and erection of the pole, and as a result $500 was secured and the fine pole which now adorns the park was secured and erected.

The order of exercises in commemoration of this event and the presentation of the pole on Memorial Day May 30, 1917, at 10:30 A.M. were as follows: Raising of the Flag by Harold E. Hitchcock, chairman of the flag committee; singing of the Star Spangled Banner; salute to the Flag; recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; presentation of Flag in behalf of Business Mens' Association, Walter B. Spencer; acceptance in behalf of Ecclesiastical Society, Eugene A. Giddings, Chairman of Society Committee; address by Robert Butler of Hartford; singing of America. Music was furnished by Colt's Band of Hartford.

II. The Old Common

It is a matter of historical interest that a considerable portion of the land which in 1674 was set apart "to be a common forever for the use of all the people," and which, after about eighty years of such use, was divided into sections and used for house lots and farms, has, in the later years, been devoted again to public use as parks, although probably not in the way which was in the minds of those who first set it apart as a common.

The portion of the original common which became a part of the West Division Parish when it was set apart by the General Assembly in 1711 had its eastern boundary on the west side of Prospect Hill Road, now Prospect Avenue, and in that section of land we now have the grounds of the Hartford Golf Club, a portion of Elizabeth Park, and Charter Oak Park.

Elizabeth Park. Eighty and more years ago Charles F. Pond, a wealthy and prominent citizen of Hartford, was the owner of a country farm located on the Prospect Hill road at the western terminus of a road which is now known as Asylum Avenue.

The old farmhouse was located on high ground on the west side of the road, quite a distance back, and the barns were back of the house. The western part of the farm was a somewhat swampy pasture lot where there were small pond holes fed by springs, and trees, bushes, skunk cabbage, and other wild growth. Here the boys on their way home from the old school on the top of Prospect Hill used to roam, hunting for wild flowers, bullfrogs, and birds' eggs.

A small brook ran from this pasture lot in a southeasterly direction across the road now known as Fern Street and on across the Prospect Hill road and the pasture lot on the Cone farm to Farmington Turnpike, where it passed under a wooden bridge at the foot of the hill about where Tremont Street is now.

This property at a later date came into the possession of Charles M. Pond, one of the sons of Charles F. Pond, who laid out the grounds on the west side of the Prospect Hill road and built a fine residence there, removing the old farmhouse and farm barns and building stables for the housing of the fine high-bred horses which he raised and owned.

At the time of his death this farm of ninety acres, together with a large sum of money, passed into the possession of the city of Hartford by the terms of his will, to be developed and maintained as a public park to be called Elizabeth Park in honor of his wife, whose death preceded his; and so in place of the ordinary country farm which was a part of the original common, we have one of Hartford's most beautiful parks, which has been visited and admired by thousands of visitors from all parts of the nation, and which is a favorite resort for the people of Hartford and vicinity and from other communities of the State.

Charter Oak Park. In the month of May, 1873, Burdett Loomis had acquired possession of a tract of land in the southeastern section of the town, which had formerly been a part of the Common. It was bounded on the east by Oakwood Avenue, on the north by Flatbush Avenue, on the west by East Street now South Quaker Lane, and on the south by land of Henry Talcott. It contained about 135 acres. Mr. Loomis had evidently acquired title to this land in behalf of the Connecticut Stock Breeders' Association. A mile track was laid out and buildings erected, horse races and fairs being held there for many years.

In 1896 Henry C. Kennedy of Hartford acquired title to the property in behalf of parties interested in the training of horses and it was known as the Charter Oak Training Park. The next year, 1897, Mr. Kennedy deeded the property to Andrew J. Welch and O. A. Jones, and it became widely known as a "trotting park," attracting large crowds of people each year to the races, in which many famous horses from all parts of the country were participants. During the latter part of this period of its history Andy Welch was the sole owner of the property. Part of the premises was leased in 1906 to the Chatford Company, and an amusement park known as Luna Park was operated for a few years.

In May, 1909, the Connecticut Fair Association came into possession of the property. This organization merged in 1923

with the Connecticut Agricultural Society and the Society is now the recognized owner of the property.

At the time when the park was at the height of its popularity a hotel was erected on Oakwood Avenue just outside the entrance of which was a favorite resort for horsemen and patrons of the park. It was finally destroyed by fire.

The Hartford Golf Club. The Hartford Golf Club was organized in 1896. In 1899 it purchased a tract of land consisting of ninety-nine acres located north of Asylum Avenue in West Hartford and between Steele Road and Prospect Avenue. It was a part of a large farm which had been owned for many years by the Huntington family. Since that date the club has acquired possession of over one hundred fifty-four additional acres on the north side of Albany Avenue and adjacent on the north to their original purchase. This entire tract of over two hundred fifty acres was originally a part of the Common which was set apart in 1674 for the use of all the people, but of course without any thought or imagination on the part of those early settlers of such a use of it by the people as is now made of it.

Burgoyne Park. In 1777 when the news of the surrender of the British General Burgoyne to General Gates reached West Hartford, Captain Ebenezer Faxon and others residing in the southern part of the parish planted a group of elm trees in an open space at the junction of the south road to Farmington and the road now known as South Quaker Lane, in commemoration of that event. These trees grew to a large size and remained for many years. The triangular space on which they stood is now enclosed by a granite curbing and is called Burgoyne Park.

While these sections of land devoted to public uses and contributing greatly to the attractiveness of the community are in West Hartford, the town has no ownership in them or control of them, and is not entitled to any credit for their existence or benefits.

The only park in which the town has any controlling interest is the small one at the center known as Goodman Park and that is the property of the First Church of Christ, but leased to the Town.

The many natural beauties of the original West Division have not been conserved in a satisfactory way as the town has developed. There have been some public spirited citizens from time to time who have advocated the development of parks in different parts of the town, but no movement in that direction has been carried through to a successful issue.

A number of years ago Mr. George W. Staples and a few other citizens advocated the laying out of a public boulevard or parkway along the line of Trout Brook from Mountain Road to Elmwood. Some of the owners of land along that line were willing to give it to the town for such a purpose, but public sentiment in favor of such a project was not strong enough to carry it through.

The attention of the Town Plan Park and Cemetery Commission has been called by some of our citizens to the need of public parks and to the development of land now in possession of the town for such purposes, but no definite action has been taken.

The present Park Commission have manifested much interest in the matter of public parks, giving the subject a great deal of attention and developing broad and highly commendable plans, but property owners some of whose land is desired for such purposes have put such high valuation on the property desired as to make purchase inadvisable, and as to give additional evidence of a lack of public spirit in the matter.

III. Hartford Reservoirs In West Hartford

As early as 1857 the Water Board of Hartford found that there was a much higher consumption of water than conditions warranted. In 1858 it began investigations relative to an increased supply. Their report, submitted to the Common Council in April, 1860, recommended a supply of water by gravity from the hills to the west of the city, and urged the Common Council to take immediate action on the matter. The question was finally brought to a definite conclusion in the fall of 1864, when it was referred by the court of the Common Council to a city vote. The decision was in favor of a supply by gravity from Trout Brook in West Hartford. In March, 1856, the Board petitioned the General Assembly for an amendment to the city charter which would enable them to take water from Trout Brook in the town of West Hartford. This petition was finally granted. The Water Board proceeded to acquire possession of pasture land and wood land on the north side of Farmington Avenue east of the eastern slope of Talcott Mountain, and along the line of a small stream of water which had been known for many years as Mine Brook and later as Trout Brook. Some of the people of West Hartford, especially those who were owners of mill privileges or water rights on the line of Trout Brook, presented a remonstrance against the proposed reservoir, but these proved of no avail. It is recorded that William H. Seymour and four hundred other citizens of West Hartford presented a petition favoring the project.

In 1866 the Water Board began the construction of the first reservoir, now known as Number One, under the direction of Seth Marsh, City Engineer of Hartford. Mr. Marsh died before it was completed, and he was succeeded by Engineer Samuel M. Gray. This first reservoir covered thirty-two acres of land, and was two hundred sixty feet above the Connecticut River at Hartford. It had a capacity of one hundred forty-five million gallons. The pipe line for conducting the water to Hartford was laid along Farmington Avenue through West Hartford Center. The pipes used at first were made of sheet iron and coated with cement.

VIEW FROM EAST SIDE OF RESERVOIR NO. 3

Water was first introduced into the city of Hartford from this reservoir in January, 1867. Some of the West Hartford people living along the pipe line felt that they should be supplied with water free of charge in view of the fact that it had been taken from West Hartford territory, and an effort was made by resort to legal proceedings to accomplish this, with the result that it was decided that West Hartford people should have the right to take the water for their uses on payment of the same rates as were to be paid by residents of Hartford. There was a feeling of disappointment on the part of many West Hartford people at this decision for they were of the opinion that Hartford has taken from West Hartford without compensation a valuable

water privilege, and should therefore give to West Hartford people the right to use the water free of charge, evidently overlooking the fact that in providing for their own needs Hartford had practically given to West Hartford the beginning of a valuable water system.

One morning in September, 1867, after a heavy rain storm which had continued for several days, a portion of the dam of the new reservoir broke away and a wall of water rolled down through the fields, practically destroying the grist and saw mill of Stanley & Thompson, a short distance below the reservoir. It rushed on to Mountain Road, carrying away the bridge on that road, passed along the line of Trout Brook through the woods to Fern Street, and destroyed a bridge there, then on to North Main Street, destroying the dam of the grist mill pond, and removing the bridge on North Main Street. Rushing on to Farmington Avenue, it undermined the central pier of a new bridge which was in process of construction. Much damage was done to the fields of the farmers by the deposits of stone and gravel and the destruction of fences. The City of Hartford paid to the Town of West Hartford the sum of $11,370 for damages to bridges and roads, and to mill owners and land owners for damages to their property the sum of $17,000.

Since the construction of the first reservoir, additional ones have been built as follows: in 1868, 1875, 1880, 1884, and 1896. The one built in 1880 is located in the town of Farmington and has been known as Reservoir Number Four. It has now been abandoned as a source of water supply and converted, with a large area of land around it, into a suburban park. The reservoir built in 1896 known as Number Six is located in the town of Bloomfield. The fine roadways which have been constructed through the woods around the reservoirs and through from Farmington Avenue to Albany Avenue, and to and round Reservoir Number Six afford fine opportunities for pleasure riding greatly enjoyed by people far and near; and they, in connection with the bodies of water, constitute an extensive and beautiful park embracing in the town of West Hartford 1625 acres of land.

Mr. William E. Johnson of West Hartford first became connected with the Water Board as an engineer in 1890, and during the greater part of the time since has been Division Superintendent, having general charge of all reservoir property in West Hartford, with his office at the entrance to Reservoir Number One on Farmington Avenue.

While Hartford now depends for its water supply upon other sources to a very large extent, it is hoped that the property in West Hartford will be retained and maintained as a park for many years.

CHANGES IN TOWN GOVERNMENT

I. Town Manager

The Board of Finance in its annual report for the fiscal year ending February 28th, 1919, included the following statements and recommendations:

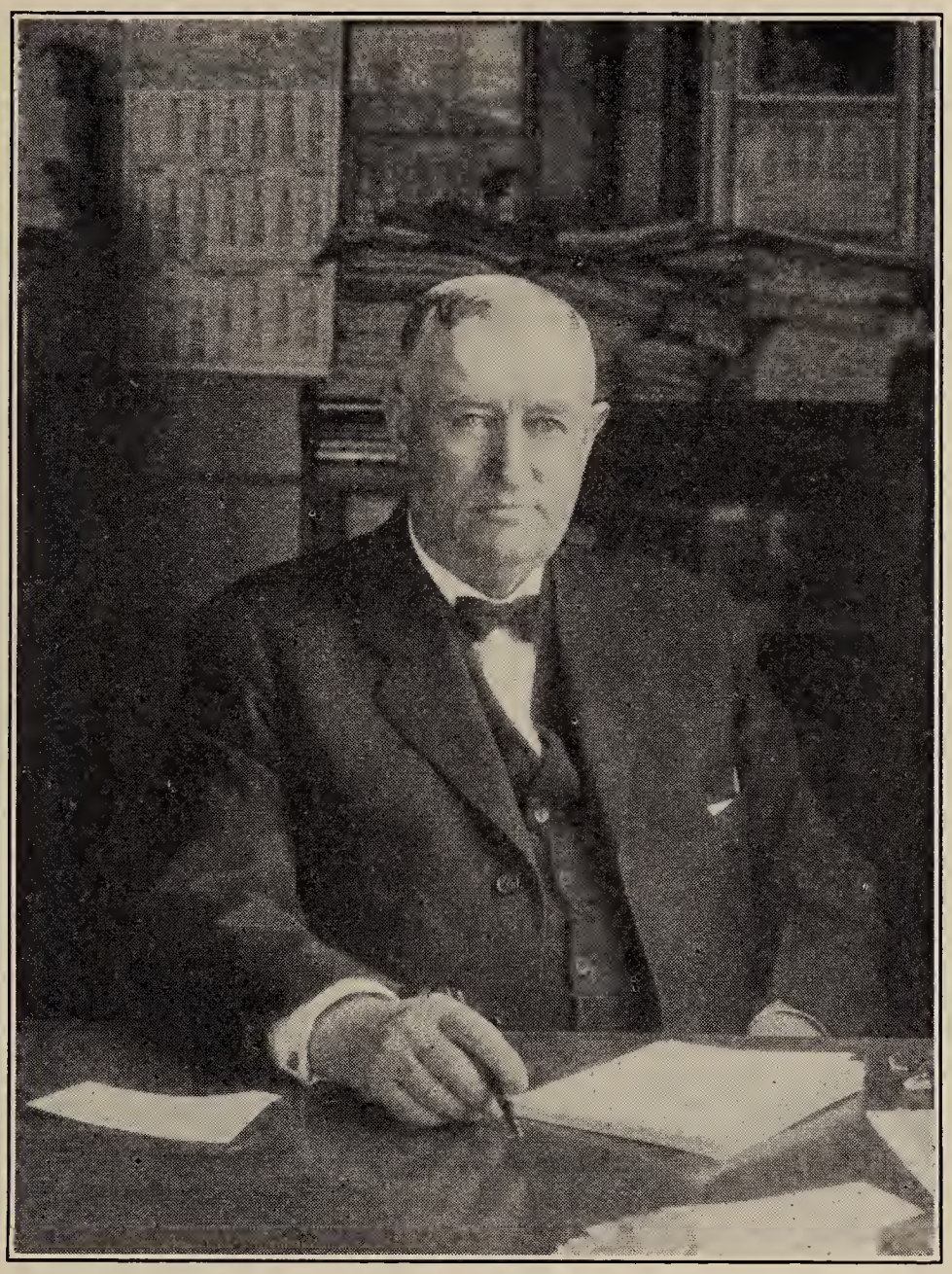
"It appears to your Finance Board that the size and importance of the Town has reached a development approximating at least an out-growth of the old system of Town Management provided by general Statutes for small towns. This need was recognized by the General Assembly in 1917, by the passage of an act concerning the appointment of town manager. If West Hartford is to grow, as we have every reason to anticipate, the time has arrived at a point where some plan looking to a more efficient system of accounting, bookkeeping, purchasing supplies, and general business management should be thought out and put into execution.

"We would recommend the appointment of a committee to investigate and report some plan for the creation of a town office to be filled by one having a thorough knowledge of accounting and such executive ability to conduct the general offices of the Town, and one under whose control should be placed the entire bookkeeping, and in whom might be coordinated the various departments of the Town's activities, so as to effect a more business-like, economical, and efficient management than could be hoped for under the present system. Such committee might well be asked to complete its duties and report early enough to enable the Town to adopt its recommendations and take measures to carry the same into effect for the fiscal year beginning March 1st, 1920."

At an adjourned town meeting held March 24th, 1919, this recommendation of the Board of Finance was acted upon and it was voted to have a special committee of seven electors appointed by the Chairman. The Chairman, Mr. A. C. Sternberg, appointed the following committee: Charles C. Cook, George H. Barton, C. Frederick Beach, Charles A. Griswold, Dennis F. Ahern, Stewart N. Dunning, and Christopher M. Gallup.

At an adjourned town meeting held on May 19, 1919, this Committee made a report favoring the appointment of a Town Manager and the following action was taken: "VOTED: That the Town of West Hartford does adopt the provisions of Sections 408-409 and 410 of the General Statutes, providing for the appointment of a Town Manager." At a meeting held on June 26, 1919, the Board of Finance under authority of the

General Statutes mentioned above, unanimously recommended the appointment of Benjamin I. Miller of Avon, Conn., and on June 30, 1919, the Board of Selectmen appointed Mr. Miller Town Manager, thus making West Hartford the first place in Connecticut to have a Manager. On July 1, 1919, he took over all of the duties of the Selectmen except the making of voters.



BENJAMIN I. MILLER
FIRST TOWN MANAGER

After attending the public schools in Avon, Mr. Miller took a two years' business course in the New Britain Seminary. Before being called to West Hartford, he rendered efficient service in his native town of Avon, serving as first Selectman for eight years, Chairman of the Town School Board several years, Judge of Probate for eight years, and Representative in the 1901 Session of the General Assembly. During the World War he served as Chairman of the 5th District Draft Board,

which had jurisdiction over Avon, Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, Farmington, Plainville, Southington, and West Hartford.

The first annual report as Town Manager was as follows:

"Since July 1, 1919, West Hartford has had the Town Manager plan, and so far it seems to have proved satisfactory to a majority of the people in this Town.

"While West Hartford is the first Town in Connecticut to take advantage of the law providing for a Manager, up to December, 1919, there were one hundred and sixty-two towns and cities in the United States that had managers and the number is growing each year. West Hartford is confronted with several large problems, of which some of the most important are schools and roads.

TOWN OFFICE BUILDING

"As the Schools are under the management of the School Board, I will not take them up at this time.

"The problem of economical construction and maintenance of roads, with the increasing cost of labor and material, is one of great importance to the taxpayers of this town.

"Your Manager would like very much to improve every road that has been petitioned for and many others, but this is impossible to do if we are to have a reasonable rate of tax this year, and I do not approve of a high tax rate this year, with the increase of valuations, therefore, it seems advisable to build

macadamized streets where none have been before, and put the surface of those streets that have been built for several years in as good condition as possible, without going to the great expense of wholly resurfacing them, and I shall endeavor to use a patrol system to fill holes in streets already built, as far as our limited funds will allow it.

"Where there are curbs and gutters on streets to be improved, they should be macadamized the whole width, but this cannot be done with the appropriation available this year; however, I believe it is a mistake to go to the other extreme and build a very narrow street.

"In the near future provision must be made for resurfacing streets that have been built for several years, especially those that are subject to heavy truck traffic.

"There has been a large amount of snow, of a very unusual density, the past winter, and there was no appropriation for clearing it from the streets; but all the available labor and teams that could be secured were kept at work in an endeavor to keep open for traffic most of the streets.

"There are many other recommendations that I should like to make, but considering the large amount of funds needed for schools and roads, will not ask for more at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

B. I. Miller, *Town Manager.*"

II. The Charter

At a special town meeting held on April 26, 1920, it was voted to have a Charter Commission appointed, and under authority of the General Statutes, Town Manager Miller appointed a Charter Commission consisting of the following electors: Charles C. Cook, Charles A. Griswold, Stewart N. Dunning, Dennis F. Ahern, George H. Barton, C. Frederick Beach, Christopher M. Gallup, Charles E. Lord, and Charles A. Hunter.

This Commission drafted a charter and held several public hearings in different sections of the Town. At a general election held November 2, 1920, a proposed charter was adopted by a vote of fourteen hundred five in favor to two hundred sixty-eight opposed.

CHARTER FOR THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Section I. All the powers and duties now vested in the Town of West Hartford or the Board of Selectmen thereof and all powers and duties which shall hereafter be vested by law in the several towns of this State or in the Selectmen thereof, except

as hereinafter specifically reserved, shall, after the first Monday after the first Tuesday of April, 1921, be vested, so far as the Town of West Hartford is concerned, in a Board to be known as the Town Council. Said Board shall consist of fifteen (15) councillors to be elected on the first Tuesday in April, 1921, and annually thereafter to hold office for one year from the first Monday next following their election and until their successors shall be elected and qualified. The present officers of said Town shall continue to hold their respective office until their successors shall have been duly elected or appointed, and duly qualified as hereinafter provided.

Section II. Said Council shall be elected by districts, such districts to be located for the convenience of electors in voting, and each district shall have, as nearly as may be, its proportional share of representation in the Council, based upon the number of voters in each district. For the first election to be held hereunder the commission to prepare a charter and appointed under the provisions of Chapter 24 of the General Statutes shall determine the method of election and formulate rules and regulations for the conduct thereof and divide the town into four temporary election districts: one consisting of Elmwood, so-called, one of Charter Oak, so-called, one of the East-side Section, so-called, and one of the remainder of the town, each such temporary election district to have such percentage of the total number of councillors, as nearly as may be, as the number of electors of said district bears to the whole number of electors in the town. After the first election shall have been held under the terms of this act and at least sixty days before a second election the Council shall by ordinance establish such districts as it may determine and define the boundaries thereof. The members of said Council shall be elected by the ballot system in use from time to time for electors' meetings, by voting machines, or otherwise as the Town shall by ordinance provide. At the annual election in April, 1923, a referendum vote shall be taken on the following question: "Shall the members of the Council be elected from the town at large?" If the majority of votes on such question is "yes", such elections shall thereafter be at large. At least one week prior to the date of each election, the Town Clerk shall deposit in the mail, addressed to each voter, a facsimile of the ballot, giving the names of all candidates substantially, as near

as may be, in the same manner and form in which the same will appear on the official ballot, and accompanying said facsimile shall appear printed instructions for using such ballot.

Section III. All votes or acts of said Council shall be subject to a referendum as follows: Within ten (10) days after the passage of any vote or act of said Council, ten per centum (10%) of the electors of said Town may petition for a special Town meeting to consider the question whether the action of said Council shall be overruled and upon receipt of such petition a special Town meeting shall be called and if, after discussion, a majority of the electors at such meeting shall so vote, there shall then be referred to a special election the question "Shall the action of the Council (here insert a description of the vote or act objected to) be overruled," such election to be held one (1) week from the date of said special Town meeting. If a majority of the electors voting at said election shall so vote and such majority shall be not less than thirty per centum (30%) of the electors of said Town, then the vote or action of said Council shall be overruled, otherwise, to be and remain in full force and effect. No vote or act so objected to shall be effective until after the date of such special election.

Section IV. Said Council shall annually appoint a Board of Finance, a School Board, Directors of Public Library, a Street, Sewer and Water Commission, an Assessment Commission, a Park, Town Plan and Cemetery Commission, a Bureau of Assessment and Award, a Board of Relief and a Police and Fire Commission, each to consist of five (5) electors, at least one, but with not more than two members of each of said boards and commissions also being members of said Council. Said Council, by appropriate ordinance may provide for additional boards or commissions and define the powers and duties thereof.

Section V. Said Town Council shall also appoint a Town Manager and define by ordinance the powers and duties thereof, and shall also provide by ordinance for the appointment of a Town Treasurer, a Tax Collector, a Controller, a Town Engineer, a Building and Plumbing Inspector, Town Auditors and Constables and any other necessary Town officials.

Section VI. A board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Registrars of Voters, Justices of the Peace, and Grand Jurors shall be elected

on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1922, and annually or biennially thereafter as the electors of the Town may determine. The present incumbents of such offices shall continue to hold office until their successors are elected and qualified, and the Council may fill any vacancies in said offices.

Section VII. At least one public hearing shall be given before any ordinance is passed, and thereafter passage of same shall be advertised in two newspapers having a circulation in said Town and ordinances shall only become operative one week from such publication.

Section VIII. All ordinances shall be filed with the Town Clerk and recorded by him in a book kept for that purpose.

Section IX. The powers and duties of the Board of Selectmen shall after the first day of May, 1921, be limited to those powers vested in and those duties imposed upon them by the Constitution and Laws of the State in relation to the admission of persons to the privileges of electors in said Town, and to the erasure from the registry list of the names of those who have forfeited the privileges of electors.

Section X. All existing Special Acts relating to the Town of West Hartford shall continue and remain in full force as now existing, except as herein amended, but the Council may, by appropriate ordinance, amend said Special Acts, or pass ordinances in lieu thereof, in conformity with the authority conferred upon towns in Chapter 24 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.

A true copy of record.

Attest: HENRY C. WHITMAN, Town Clerk.

This original Charter has been amended since.

The first Town Election, under the Charter was held on April 5, 1921, and the following were elected to the first Town Council:

First District: Chas. W. Hall, Frederick E. Duffy, Albert H. Yost, Charles A. Griswold, W. Wallace Thomson.

Second District: Frank J. Cadwell.

Third District: Edward J. Dungan, Oscar W. Hjerpe, John J. Grogan, Charles E. Latham.

Fourth District: Gustaf A. Lindell, James M. Linton, Richard H. Phillips, George H. Barton, Raymond G. Lincoln.

On April 12, 1921, the first Council was organized, and the meeting was called to order by Town Manager Miller; all members of the Council, fifteen in number, were present, and the oath of office was administered by Town Clerk, Henry C. Whitman.

At the time the first Council was organized, the other Town officers were the following:

Town Clerk and Treasurer, Henry C. Whitman; Collector of Taxes, Arthur R. Thompson; Town Manager, Benjamin I. Miller; Board of Selectmen, George H. Barton, C. Frederick Beach, Edwin Y. Judd; Assessment Commission, Charles W. Hall, Stewart N. Dunning, Prescott A. Sears*, Louis Denniston, Edwin Y. Judd; Board of Relief, Thomas Linder, William S. Brace, Clarence C. Scarborough, all terms expire 1921; Justices of the Peace, Carlyle C. Thomson, Leonard J. Collins, Alexander J. Keeney, F. Grenville Stadtmueller, Richard H. Deming, William F. Hale; Grand Jurors, Edward B. Barker, John F. Blake, James B. Henry; Constables, James Livingston, Daniel W. Bushey, Frank J. Dellert, Axel A. O. Olsen, John J. Cosker, James J. Keily, Charles L. Dion; Auditors, Julius P. Wessel, Victor E. Brodeur; Registrars of Voters, George E. Smith, Eugene A. Malaney; Board of Finance, Myron A. Andrews, James P. Krogh, Henry A. Wolcott, Harry Tyler Smith, Huntington P. Meech**; School Committee, Eugene A. Giddings, Albert H. Yost, William F. Hale, W. A. Sanborn, Constance B. Marshall, E. Cornwall Roberts, Alfred Plant, Frederick E. Duffy, Richard J. Dillon, terms expired 1921; Town Plan Commission, Robert K. Smith, Charles A. Griswold, Allen W. Brown, Prescott A Sears*, William S. Lines, Jr., Weston W. Walker, Benjamin I. Miller, Ex-Officio, terms expired 1921; Directors of Public Library, Rev. T. M. Hodgdon, Mrs. Edward W. Morley, Henry C. Whitman, William E. Johnson, Mrs. Joel L. English, Arthur R. Thompson, Charles Deckelman, Mrs. Allen W. Brown, Miss Clara E. Sears, terms expired 1921; Cemetery Committee, William H. Hall, Alexander J. Keeney, Charles A. Griswold, terms expired 1921; Police, James Livingston, Daniel W. Bushey, Frank J. Dellert, William J. Fribance.

*Died January 13, 1921.

**Resigned.

FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS — THE POST OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS

I. Fire Department

The Fountain Hose Company. On July 24, 1879, a meeting was held at the Center for the purpose of organizing a hose company. The following persons were present, manifesting their interest in the movement:

John M. Bates*	Edward Keeney
Paul Thomson	Jared A. Griswold
Albert S. Bishop	Alexander F. Emmons
Franklin S. Hatch*	William S. Brace
Merton S. Buckland	Charles S. Griswold
David E. Stoddard	John A. Decker
Seth L. Gilbert	Warren J. Decker
William H. Hall	Joseph E. Brace
Seth P. Griswold	Warren O. Griswold
John S. Gridley	Nelson Svenson

These persons voted to organize a company to be known as the West Hartford Hose Company. At a later date, Francis Nichols, John B. Griswold, George LeMay, Frank Whiton, James A. King, John W. Herrick, Fred W. Griswold, Edward S. Robbins, and C. A. Griswold were added to the number. The membership at first was limited to twenty-five. Joseph E. Brace was elected the first foreman and Albert S. Bishop the first secretary.

The time of holding meetings was on the last Saturday in each month at 5 p.m. Any member absent at that time was fined twenty-five cents. Any officer not performing his duty in a satisfactory manner was to be fined fifty cents, and any member disobeying an officer was to be fined twenty-five cents.

The first hydrant was installed on the green at the center in 1879, and in October of that year the first water in that hydrant was turned on by Chief Eaton† of the Hartford Fire Department, he having been elected an honorary member of the Company. James W. Livingston, who was present, still has in his possession the wrench and nozzle of the old leather hose used. The records of many of the meetings show that during the earlier years the

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*John M. Bates was the rector of St. James Episcopal Church, and Franklin S. Hatch the pastor of the Congregational Church.

†Chief Eaton spent his boyhood in West Hartford and was always deeply interested in everything that pertained to its welfare.

members of the Company were called out frequently for the purpose of oiling the hose and putting it in proper condition for the winter.

On the twenty-first of June, 1881, it was voted to hold a lawn festival for the purpose of raising funds for the benefit of the Company; and on December 1, 1882, it was voted to give a ball for the same purpose. On January 22, 1883, the Company voted to procure uniforms, the cost not to exceed $3.00 for each person, but at a later date the price was changed to $4.00.

On January 19, 1885, the name of the Company was changed to the Fountain Hose Company, and the following officers were elected: Chief, John E. Millard; foreman, Merton S. Buckland; secretary, Albert S. Bishop; assistant foremen, Joseph E. Brace; treasurer, Jared A. Griswold.

The first provision for giving alarm in case of fire was made October 30, 1885, when M. H. Benedict was appointed to ring the church bell in case of fire. The bell had previously been rung by anyone who had discovered a fire and who had quick access to the belfrey. On June 23, 1903, Henry C. Whitman was appointed to arrange a fire alarm code, using the Congregational Church bell for giving the alarm.

The Company, during the earlier years, in addition to actual practice in handling the equipment, performed good public service by laying the dust on all streets that could be reached by them, the number of hydrants being limited. The old leather hose, after outlasting its usefulness, was finally burned, and the copper rivets and couplings were sold. A new hose and a second two-wheel hose cart were secured, and additional water pails for service outside the hydrant district. In February, 1915, an old Hartford truck was purchased from Theron Darling and fitted with tanks and all necessary equipment. The old Pope-Hartford truck was disposed of in 1921 and the Stevens-Duryea now in use was purchased.

The present building of the Fountain Hose Company was built in the autumn of 1916. When the building was first constructed, it was necessary to place a mortgage on it in order to provide sufficient funds, but in 1922 this mortgage was removed.

Mr. James Livingston has been actively identified with this Company during all its history. At the time of the turning on of the first water in the center hydrant in 1879, Mr. Livingston was a call member of the Hartford Fire Department. Later he became a member of the West Hartford Company, and has been at all times deeply interested in promoting its interest.

This Company has rendered efficient service at the many fires which have occurred in the town during its history. One of the largest and most formidable of these was in August, 1907, when four dwellings on Raymond Road were completely destroyed and others very badly injured. The Company has rendered

service at different times in the adjoining towns of Newington, Bloomfield, and Farmington.

At the present time the Company has an active membership of thirty persons, with the following officers: Captain, Herman J. Miller; first lieutenant, Clarence R. Root; second lieutenant, George Mills; secretary-treasurer, Ernest A. Brigham.

The trustees are James W. Livingston, Earl Livingston, Clarence R. Root.

The East Side Fire District. The first movement for a fire district in West Hartford was in connection with a petition from residents in the eastern part of the town to the selectmen of the town in 1909. In response to that petition a call was issued for a meeting to be held in the Whiting Lane schoolhouse on the evening of November 22. First Selectman Niles G. White called the meeting to order. Joel L. English was elected chairman and George H. Barton, clerk.

Charles C. Cook, who had circulated the petition,explained the object and purpose of such an organization and offered a motion for the incorporation of the district. This was passed unanimously.

The boundaries outlined for the district were as follows: on the south, the north line of Park Road from Whiting Lane to Prospect Avenue; on the east, the west line of Prospect Avenue from Park Road to Albany Avenue; on the north, the south line of Albany Avenue to Steele Road; and on the west, the east line of Steele Road to Fern Street and thence south to Whiting Lane and south on the east line of Whiting Lane to the point of beginning on Park Road. The organization of the district consisted of the election of Joel L. English, Robert H. Schultz, and W. A. Sanborn as District Committee, and George H. Barton as Clerk and Treasurer.

The district proceeded at once to the raising of funds by taxation to provide for the installation of hydrants and the purchase of hose. In 1912 the lot on South Prospect Avenue, on which the fire house now stands, was purchased and the building was erected in 1915. A Triple American La France engine was purchased and a force of five firemen appointed to serve the district. The commissioned service began August 15, 1915.

In December 1926, the fire house was enlarged to double its original capacity and an American La France ladder truck was added to the equipment. The force employed at the present time consists of ten men.

The department has won the reputation of a well organized and well equipped body, and has rendered notably prompt and efficient service on many occasions.

EAST SIDE FIRE HOUSE

The present District Committee consists of Charles C. Cook (chairman), Frank G. Smith, W. A. Sanborn. The clerk is Prentice F. Waite and the treasurer, Harris L. Burr. George H. Barton is superintendent. Messrs. Cook, Sanborn, and Barton have been officially identified with the department from its beginning and have manifested a fine spirit of devotion to its interests and efficiency.

It was because of the efforts of the commissioners and superintendent of this fire district that the General Assembly of Connecticut passed an act giving power to fire districts to collect ashes and garbage and assess the cost of the same on the property of the residents.

The Center Fire District. The Center Fire District was organized at a meeting held May 4, 1914. The following named officers were elected: Commissioners, Carlyle C. Thomson, George A. Kellogg, Prescott A. Sears; Clerk and Treasurer, Alexander J. Keeney; Tax Collector, Arthur R. Thompson.

The headquarters for several years were in the building of the Fountain Hose Company in the rear of the Baptist Church, but in 1925 the present building on Brace Road was erected.

The officers at that time, under whose direction the building was erected, were as follows: district committee, F. C. Neilson,

Harold J. Beardsley, Allen T. Pratt; clerk and treasurer, Edward B. Barker; tax collector, Arthur R. Thompson. The contractors by whom the building was erected were the firm of McIntyre and Ahern of Hartford.

The district is equipped with an American La France pumper, a Maxim ladder truck, and a Captain's automobile. The force of employees consists of Captain Thomas H. Donnelly, two lieutenants, and ten privates.

CENTER DISTRICT FIRE HOUSE

The present officers of the district are F. W. Horton chairman, Karl D. Johnson clerk, Alden Bunyan treasurer, L. A. Partridge and Milo S. Hunt commissioners, Arthur R. Thompson tax collector.

The district has been taxed annually for funds to provide for the maintenance of its plant and force, and for the collection regularly of ashes, garbage, etc. The men in charge of the fire house and apparatus have rendered efficient service, responding promptly to many calls when fires have occurred.

The Quaker Hose Company. The Quaker Hose Company was organized in 1915 with the following officers: president, J. Bush; vice-president, W. Cook; treasurer, O. Nordstrom.

The first apparatus was a rebuilt delivery wagon, hand drawn, equipped with 500 feet of second-hand hose and 25

buckets. At that time the Town had few fire hydrants. In view of this, the community, under the direction of Quaker Hose, took up subscriptions and installed a number at advantageous points.

In keeping with the progress of time the original apparatus was soon antiquated and was replaced by a Mitchell touring car rebuilt into a suitable hose and apparatus truck. Necessary equipment was added so rapidly that the Mitchell truck was soon too light to do the work and in 1919 the Pierce-Arrow truck was purchased through subscription, entertainments, and other means of raising funds.

The Company has a membership of 22 men. The present officers are Captain, J. E. Curran; first lieutenant, L. Noyes; second lieutenant, L. Graywacx; treasurer, R. Schuddekopf; financial secretary, C. Noyes; recording secretary, C. Reed.

This company has been prompt to render valuable assistance when called.

The South or Elmwood Fire District. The South Fire District was organized June 12, 1919, and the following officers elected: District Committee, Charles E. Lord, (Chairman), Prescott A. Sears, Dennis F. Ahern; Clerk, Richard J. Dillon; Treasurer, Richard J. Dillon; Collector of Taxes, Arthur R. Thompson; Ratemaker, Edward B. Barker; Auditors, Burton E. Hilton, William L. Shepard.

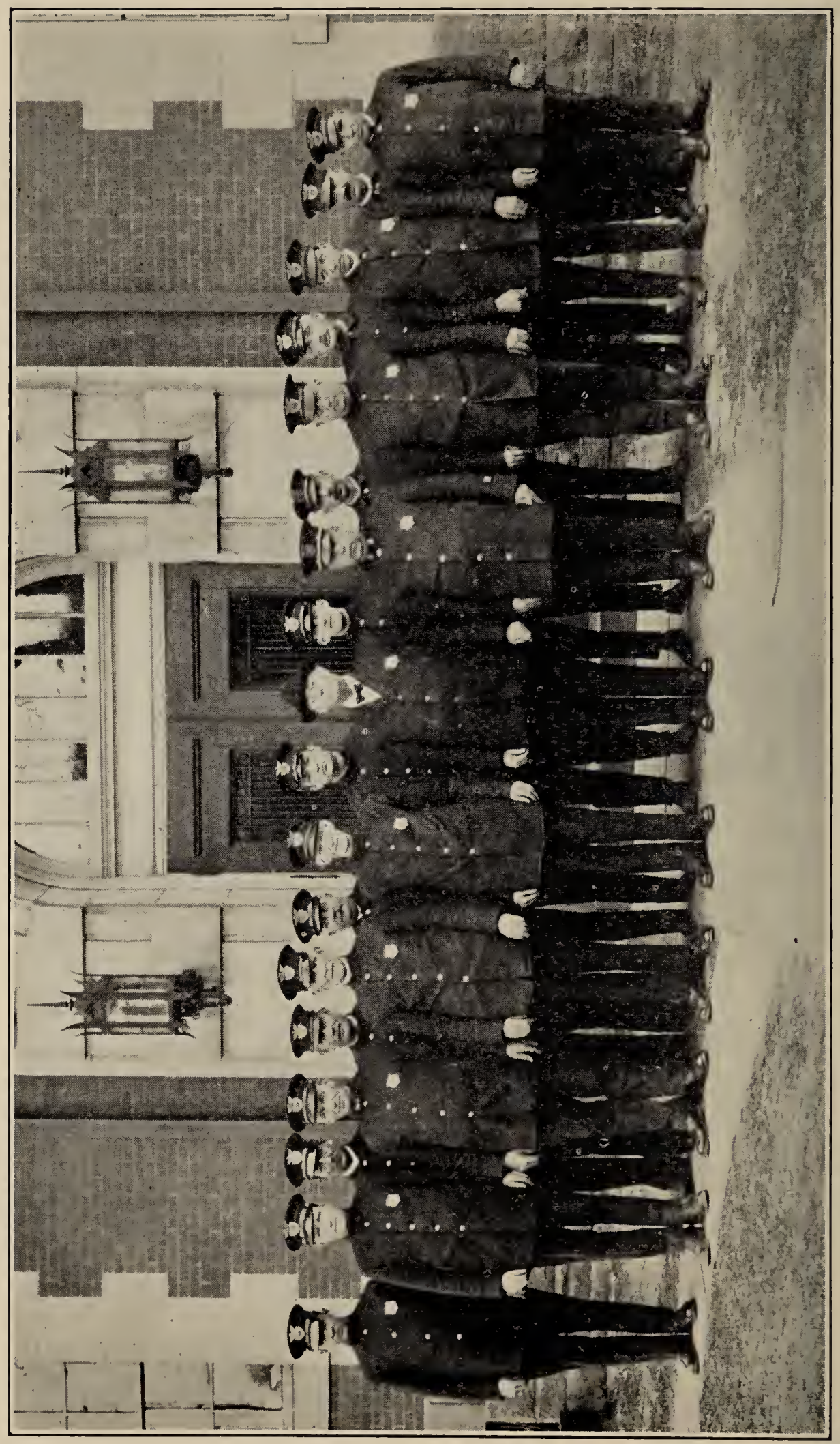
The property at number 1066 New Britain Avenue was purchased November 21, 1919, for $3,000 and remodeled for use as a fire house at an expense of $5,106.00. The equipment consists of a Maxim model M-3 triple combination hose, chemical and pumping engine purchased for $12,025.00 and delivered to the district November 21, 1921.

The present officers are as follows: District committee, Charles E. Lord, Chairman, Dennis F. Ahern, Victor E. Brodeur; clerk, Richard J. Dillon; treasurer, Richard J. Dillon; collector of taxes, Arthur R. Thompson; ratemaker, Edward B. Barker; auditors, Burton E. Hilton, Howard E. Shaw. The men on force are as follows: eight regular men, eight substitutes, and fifteen call men.

The District is now taking up the matter of erecting a new and larger building.

II. Police Department

In 1917 the Legislature passed a special act making the selectman a Board of Police Commissioners and defining their duties. The selectmen of West Hartford, under the provisions of this act, at various times appointed special policemen to do



FIRST REGULAR POLICE DEPARTMENT OF WEST HARTFORD, CONSISTING OF CHIEF B. I. MILLER, WHO WAS ALSO TOWN MANAGER, AND EIGHT REGULAR OFFICERS AND NINE SUPERNUMERARIES

duty at the fairs at Charter Oak Park and on other occasions. On July 1, 1919, when Town Manager Miller took over the duties of the Selectmen, he became the Police Commissioner and organized the first police department in West Hartford. On October 1, 1920, he appointed Constable Daniel W. Bushey the first regular policeman, and Frank J. Dellert, and on January 1, 1921, James Livingston, who had been a constable for many years, was appointed a regular policeman.

Later on, the police were all appointed by the Town Manager until the charter was adopted and the Town Council elected. The Council appointed the first Police and Fire Commission on April 20, 1921, consisting of John J. Grogan, Frank J. Cadwell, John E. Curran, Leonard J. Collins, and Horatio H. Armstrong; and this Commission made the appointments from this date, continued the Town Manager as supervisor of the department, and later appointed him the first Chief of Police.

With the rapid growth of the Town the department continued to increase, and in January, 1923, the Town Manager and the Commission decided that the duties of the Town Manager had increased to such an extent that a full-time man should be secured for Chief of Police. On June 21, 1923, Town Manager Miller voluntarily resigned and the commission accepted his resignation with regret. At this time the force consisted of eight regular policemen and nine supernumeraries. After the resignation of the Town Manager as Chief of Police, the Commission appointed Joseph F. Grogan Chief, and he has held the position ever since.

III, The Postoffice And Postmasters

The first post office in West Hartford was located in the northern part of the parish, in the Goodman Tavern, on the northwest corner of Main Street and the Talcott Mountain Turnpike. Aaron Goodman, the proprietor of the tavern, was appointed postmaster in 1820, and he continued in that position until 1832.

The post office consisted of a box divided into small compartments each one marked with a letter of the alphabet. All mail directed to people whose surnames began with A was put into the A compartment, and so on through the alphabet. When Mr. Brown or Mr. Brace called for his mail, the postmaster looked over the mail which was in the B compartment, to find whatever mail there might be for the inquiring person. The mail, in those early days, usually consisted mainly of weekly newspapers, with occasional letters. Persons residing in distant parts of the town usually went to the post office once a week. One person would get not only his own mail but also mail for his neighbors, who would come to his house after his return home to get whatever had been brought for them.

In 1832, Elihu Olmsted was appointed to succeed Mr. Goodman. He lived at the Center in the brick house (still standing) on the west side of Goodman Park. It was the only building in that locality at that time. He purchased property on the northeast corner of Main Street and Farmington Turnpike, built a house there, and a small building for a store and post office on the corner in front of the house. The house built and occupied by him and his family is now owned by Mrs. Susie B. Andrews. It was moved from its original location to the north when the new bank building was erected. The old post office building, after being twice removed and enlarged, converted first into a store and then into a dwelling, is now the two-family dwelling house located in the rear of the residence of Mrs. Susie B. Andrews.

Mr. Olmsted was succeeded by Nathan Burr in 1847. Mr. Burr had built a two-story building on the southwest corner of Farmington Turnpike and West Hartford Main Street, opposite the tavern, which was on the north side of the turnpike. On the first floor he had a small store with the post office boxes in the southeast corner. On the second floor, which was reached by an inside stairway south of the post office corner, he conducted a boot and shoe shop where several men were employed repairing and making boots and shoes. One of these men was Leonard Buckland who at a later date succeeded Mr. Burr as postmaster. Mr. Burr was not successful as a business man and a few years later was obliged to close his shop.

Mr. Buckland was appointed postmaster in 1856. He purchased the building in which the post office was located, enlarged it to include a family residence, and began to build up a grocery business in connection with the conduct of the post office. He continued in service until 1885 when Grover Cleveland was elected President and Walter Cadwell was appointed. The post office was removed to a store on South Main Street which is now incorporated in M. J. Burnham's grocery store. This location was considered inconvenient and quite unsatisfactory by many of the people, and there was rejoicing when the office was restored to its former corner location in 1889 when Leonard Buckland was again appointed postmaster, which position he held until his death in 1896.

After Mr. Buckland's death his son Merton S. Buckland was appointed postmaster and retained that position until his death in 1906. Merton S. Buckland built an addition to the building on the front providing larger quarters. His son, Frank M. Buckland succeeded him, and served until 1913; so with the exception of four years, when Walter Cadwell was postmaster, the post office was conducted under the administration of the members of the Buckland family for 57 years.

Albert L. Lamb succeeded Frank M. Buckland as postmaster

and served until 1918, when the West Hartford office was made a branch of the Hartford office and Mr. Lamb was appointed as superintendent of the Station. During his administration the post office was removed to a new building on the south side of Farmington Avenue, a short distance west of the former location. On the fifteenth of May 1925, M. D. Alling was appointed superintendent of the Station and has continued to serve until the present time.

During the latter part of the administration of the Bucklands a rural delivery route was established covering the territory in the southern, western, and northern sections of the town. James

WEST HARTFORD POST OFFICE, 1929
THIS GROUP REPRESENTS THE CLERKS AND CARRIERS IN 1929.
M. D. ALLING POSTMASTER IN THE CENTER.

Miller, who resided on North Main Street, was in charge for a number of years, rendering very efficient service. A rural delivery route is still maintained. At the present time there are fifteen carriers who deliver the mail daily in the central part of the town, and four clerks are employed to assist Mr. Alling in the post office.

On March 1, 1929, the post office was removed to a new building constructed especially for its use, at the corner of Farmington Avenue and LaSalle Street, by the Americano Construction Company, by whom it is leased to the United States Government. Thus for the first time in its history the West

Hartford post office is located in a separate building devoted exclusively to its use. The building contains 3,024 square feet of space, suitably divided and arranged for the satisfactory and most modern methods of conducting the business.

A post office was established in Elmwood in April 29, 1873. It was first located in the Elmwood Railroad Station and Wilbur E. Goodwin was postmaster until his death in 1905. He was succeeded by Charles E. Lord, then conducting a grocery store in Elmwood, and the post office was removed to his store. William B. Johnson was appointed postmaster in 1914, holding the position until 1922, when Thomas C. Brown, the proprietor at that time of the Elmwood grocery, was appointed. He still occupies the position.

THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF THIS GROUP PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1929 ARE DESCENDANTS OF SOME OF THE OLDEST FAMILIES IN WEST HARTFORD. THEIR GRANDPARENTS, GREAT GRANDPARENTS, AND, IN SOME CASES, GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS, WERE ACCUSTOMED TO ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES ON SUNDAY IN THIS BUILDING

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

A detailed genealogical survey of the earlier residents of West Hartford would be exceptionally difficult to make, in part

due to the fact that there was a great deal of intermarrying among families. Fortunately such a survey would not be of general interest. It would be equally difficult to give a complete account of all who, especially in the earlier years, went forth to contribute to the professional, political, and industrial life in other communities; for there were many such, as was the case in nearly every New England town. It has seemed best to mention comparatively few of the representatives of West Hartford in other parts of the world, and to focus attention upon those who, in a general way, were representative of the life and activity of the home community. The sketches here given, most of them necessarily brief, in some instances repeat information imparted fragmentarily in earlier chapters. It is needless to say that they do not include all who are worthy of mention.

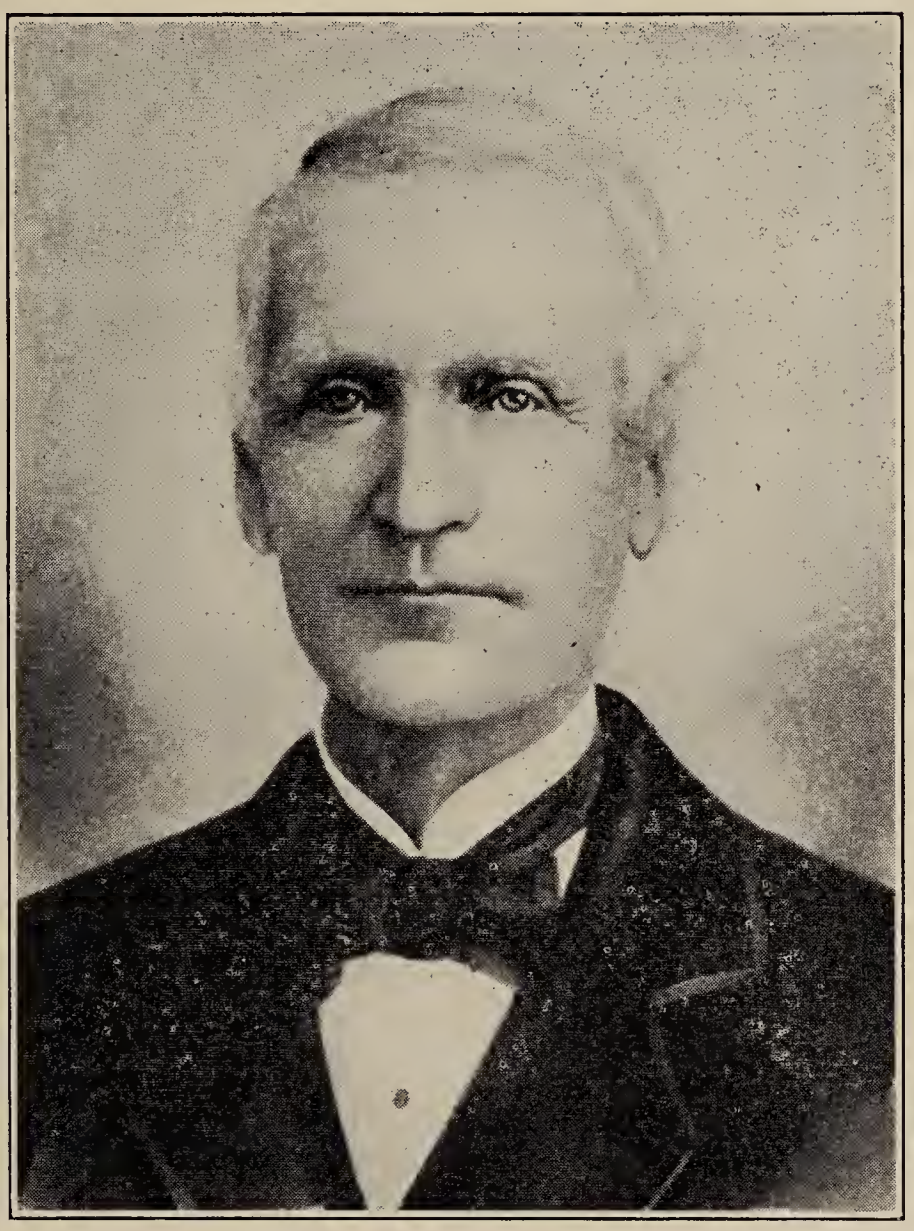
Early Family Names. In connection with the petition sent in 1710 to the General Assembly asking the privilege of organizing a separate parish the following names appear: Arnold, Bull, Butler, Ensign, Flower, Gaylord, Gillet, Kellogg, Merrill, Merry, Morgan, Olmsted, Peck, Scott, Sedgwick, Shepherd, Smith, Steel, Watson, Webster, Williams.

At a later period in the history of the parish and town are found these additional names: Balch, Barr, Belden, Bevans, Bishop, Bissel, Brace, Braman, Cadwell, Colton, Deming, Ellsworth, Faxon, Flagg, Francis, Gilbert, Goodman, Goodwin, Gridley, Griswold, Hamilton, Hooker, Hurlburt, Millard, Mills, Mix, Perkins, Phelps, Root, Selden, Standly (now Stanley), Talcott, Wells, Whiting, Whitman.

The Stanleys. In the original layout of sections in the West Division in 1674, one section in the extreme northern part of the division was assigned to Caleb Standly, son of Thomas Standly, and another section in the southern part of the Division was assigned to Nathan Standly, another son of Thomas Standly. This family (later spelled Stanley) has had representatives in the parish and town ever since 1674.

Edward Stanley, son of Truman Stanley, was born in 1824 in the old Stanley homestead, located on the north side of the old road over Selden Hill, and just west of West Lane, now Mountain Road. He was the owner of a large farm embracing the tract of land now known as Beuna Vista and many acres of woodland. He was a breeder of fine horses and Devonshire cattle. He was a member and strong supporter of the Congregational Church, and his two-horse, three-seated family wagon conveying nine persons to church was a noticeable feature in the community for many years. He had the distinction of being the first person elected to the position of representative of the town in the General Assembly of Connecticut in 1855, and

for twenty-four years subsequently he served the town as a selectman and much of the time as first selectman. He died in 1894.



EDWARD STANLEY, FIRST REPRESENTATIVE OF WEST HARTFORD IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1855

Everitt T. Stanley, oldest son of Edward Stanley, was born in 1846. He is still a resident of West Hartford and is a highly esteemed citizen. For many years he was a prosperous farmer and milk dealer. From 1885 until 1909 he occupied the position of first selectman of the town, in which office he rendered very efficient service during a period when extensive public developments and improvements required a large amount of the time and attention of one occupying such an important position. Mr. Stanley was very diligent and efficient in his devotion to the affairs of the town and the promotion of its welfare. It is regretted by the writer that a picture cannot be presented in this connection of Mr. Stanley as he was seen daily driving with his fleet-footed horse to some part of the town in the discharge of his duties, and as he will always be remembered by those who saw him.

The Sedgwicks. Many of the descendants of Samuel Sedgwick, who came to West Hartford in 1865, have been, through the generations, influential citizens of the town, and other descendants have been prominent in local and national affairs as residents of other communities.

Benjamin Sedgwick, born in West Hartford in 1710, removed to Cromwell, Conn. He was an ancestor of General John Sedgwick, prominent in the War of the Revolution, and the later General John Sedgwick, prominent in the Civil War.

Theodore Sedgwick, grandson of Samuel, born in West Hartford in 1746, became a resident of Stockbridge, Mass. In 1796 he was representative from that State in the United States Senate. In 1797, he was Speaker of the House of Representatives and in 1802 he was elected Judge of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. The statement has been made that during his residence in Washington he became a warm friend of President George Washington.

Catherine Sedgwick, daughter of Theodore Sedgwick, became a prominent writer.

William Thompson Sedgwick, born in West Hartford in 1855, was one of the most distinguished natives of the town. He was the son of William and Anne Thompson Sedgwick, a half brother of George Sedgwick of New York City, and of Timothy Sedgwick, a former prominent citizen of West Hartford, the father of Mrs. Charles A. Griswold. He was a descendant of Samuel Sedgwick, grandson of Rev. Samuel Stone, who was the first Sedgwick to come to West Hartford to live.

He was graduated from the Hartford Public High School in 1874 and from the Yale Sheffield Scientific School in 1877. In 1879 he was offered a fellowship in Johns Hopkins University, where he soon became Professor of Biology. In 1883 he was appointed Professor of Biology in Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in which position he remained until his death in 1921.

He was a recognized authority in biological research, a leader in sanitation, public health, etc. He traveled abroad and received, from many educational institutions at home and abroad, various honorary degrees. He was recognized as a very successful educator, enjoying the esteem and affectionate regard of his associates and students, and of his fellow citizens as a friend and neighbor.

When the West Hartford Congregational Church celebrated its bicentennial anniversary in 1913, Professor Sedgwick was invited to give one of the principal addresses, and the older scholars from all the public schools, assembled in the Town Hall, listened with great interest to his account of his boyhood experiences in the town and in Farmington.

Professor Sedgwick died suddenly at his home in 1921, in the midst of an active and distinguished career.

WILLIAM THOMPSON SEDGWICK

Professor Sedgwick's boyhood home was on the north side of Park Road about opposite the present residence of James E. Dissell. The house was removed some years ago by Anton King to a location on the Sedgwick farm farther west at the top of the hill. After the death of his father, William and his mother moved to her former home in Farmington.

The Gillets or Gillettes. This name, as it appears in the early records, gives evidence that the members of the family in suc-

cessive generations were public spirited and patriotic citizens of the West Division.

Joseph Gillet came to the West Division in 1694, and established his home on one of the sections of land south of the South Middle Road to Farmington. His name appears on the list of the original members of the first church in the community, which was organized in 1713, and on subsequent records as a member of important committees.

A second Joseph Gillet, born in 1665, was either a soldier serving in defense of his country or an officer in the local militia, for on his tombstone in the old cemetery at West Hartford Center is the following inscription: "Lieutenant Joseph Gillitt, died 1747 aged 81."

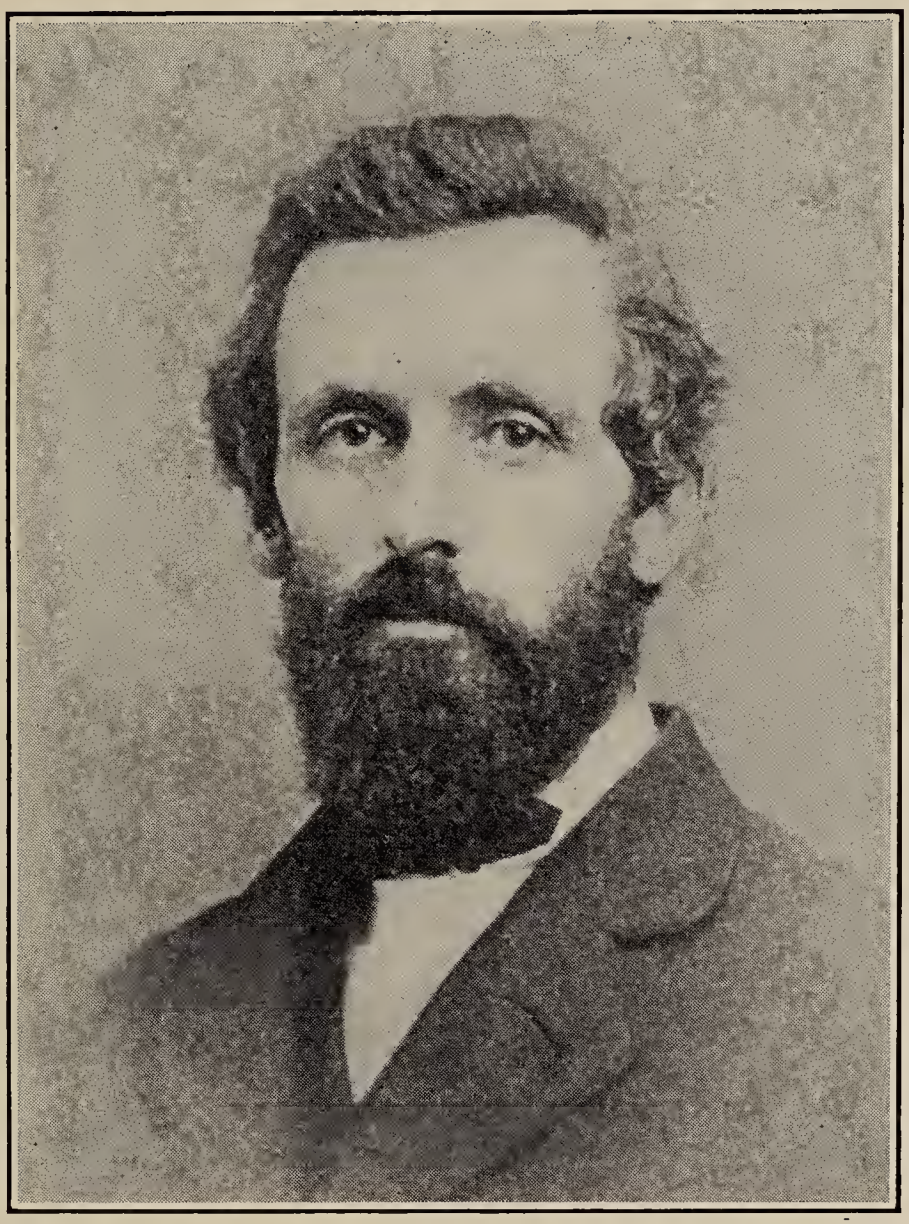
His grandson, Jonathan Gillet or Gillette, born in 1738, enlisted in the Continental Army, and in the Battle of Long Island was captured by the British and confined in a prison ship, where he suffered such tortures and hardships that his health was ruined and his death hastened.

A second Jonathan Gillet, born in 1762, was in the army rendering services on the Hudson. He was taken prisoner at Horseneck and confined, with others, in an old sugar house in New York City for a time, but was finally released. Many years afterwards, when the old sugar house was torn down, four canes were made from one of the door posts, and these were given to four survivors who had been imprisoned there. One of them came to Jonathan Gillette, and has been handed down, in accordance with his request, to the oldest son in the successive generations until the present time. In accordance with this custom, it came into the possession of Henry J. Gillette, formerly the beloved City Missionary of Hartford, and, at his death, it passed to his oldest son, Rev. Edwin C. Gillette, D.D., now Superintendent of the Congregational Church Conference of Florida.

Mr. C. H. Gillette of Woodrow Street, West Hartford, formerly a resident of Canaan, is connected with this Gillette family, a descendant of one of the Gillettes who went from West Hartford to Canaan; and Frank W. Gillette, who formerly lived here on Pleasant Street, now residing at Wolcott Hill, is also of the same family line.

The Whitmans. In 1854 when West Hartford became a separate town and the first election of town officers was held, John Whitman, son of Samuel Whitman, Sr., was elected to the position of town clerk, in which he rendered efficient service until 1861. From 1856 until 1861 he also held the position of town treasurer. He was a farmer by occupation, but in the winter served as school-master, in accordance with the prevailing

custom of those times. The writer has a very distinct and pleasurable remembrance of him, as his first male teacher, in the old Center School, more than seventy-five years ago. Mr. Whitman was a man of sterling character, a patriotic citizen, ready to render service in behalf of the community but never seeking office, highly esteemed by all who knew him.



JOHN WHITMAN, FIRST TOWN CLERK, 1854.

Samuel Whitman, the third in the Whitman family line in West Hartford to bear the name Samuel, was elected as the first Treasurer of the Town of West Hartford in 1854. In 1856 he was succeeded by his brother John Whitman, but was again elected Town Treasurer in 1879, and continued in service until 1890, when he retired on account of impaired eyesight and his son Henry C. Whitman was elected as his succesor. Mr. Whitman was highly esteemed for his integrity, his conscientious and faithful discharge of his official duties, and his loyal citizenship. He was active in town affairs, serving many years as a member of the School Board, and was one of the prime movers for the open-

ing of the High School in 1872, at which time he was a member of the Town School Committee. In 1877 Mr. Whitman represented the town in the General Assembly.

SAMUEL WHITMAN TOWN TREASURER 1854

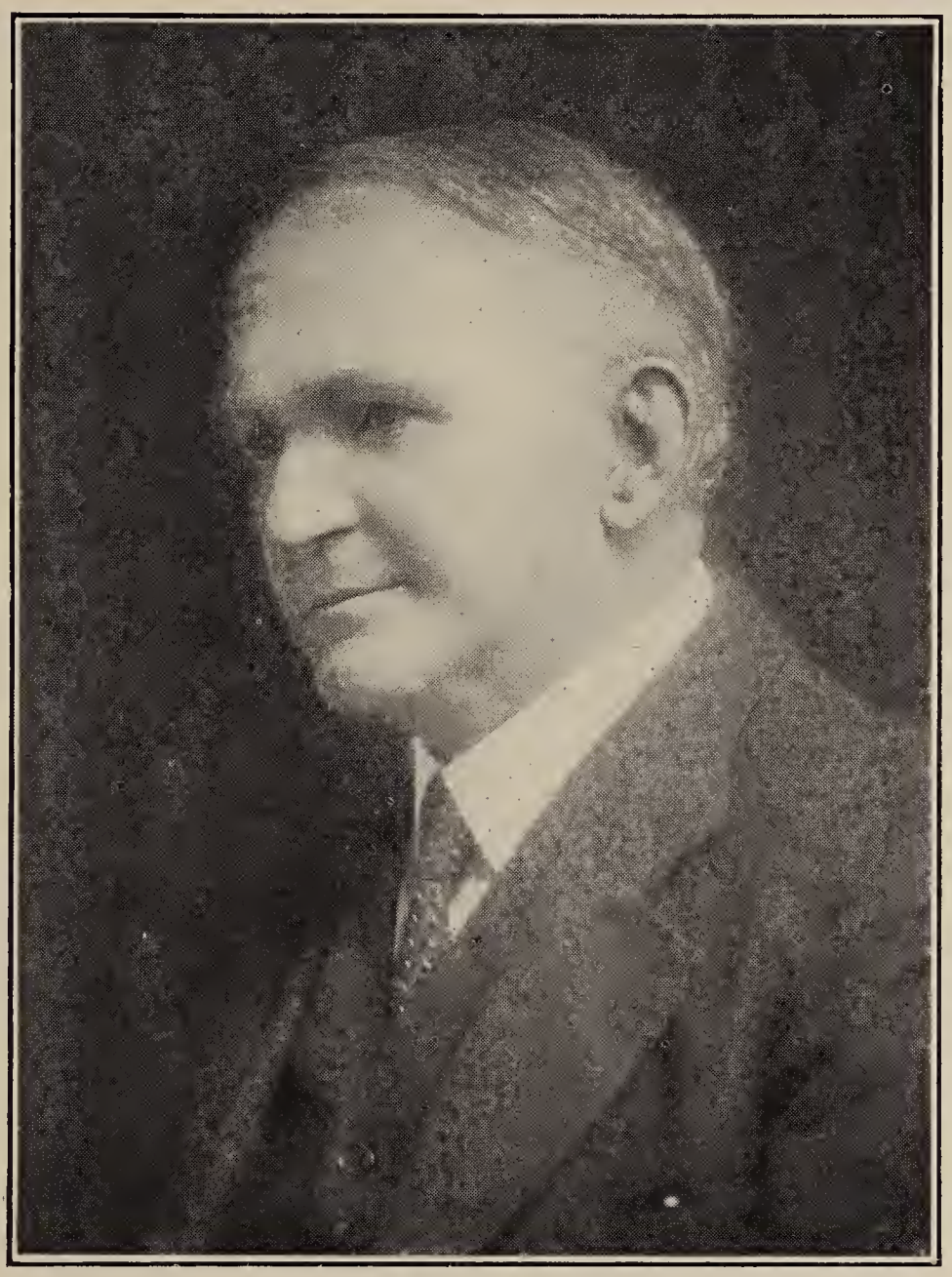
Henry C. Whitman, son of Samuel Whitman, has devoted his life since early manhood, to efficient service in behalf of the town of West Hartford. His first public service was as a teacher, for a few years, in the West Hartford schools.

In October 1894 he was elected to the position of Town Clerk, in which position he continued until January 1929 when his resignation took effect.

He was elected in October 1890 to the position of Town Treasurer, and served as such until March 1925. During the greater part of this period he was the candidate of both political parties. At the annual elections of town officers, and during all the years of his efficient public service, to which he devoted his time and attention with marked fidelity, he was held in high esteem by all his fellow citizens, and is still so regarded by all who know him.

In the position of Town Clerk he succeeded his uncle, John Whitman, although not directly, and in the position of Town Treasurer he succeeded his father, Samuel Whitman.

On the occasion of his retirement, his official associates in town affairs and other friends gave him a reception and presented him with a beautiful present as a token of their esteem and good will.

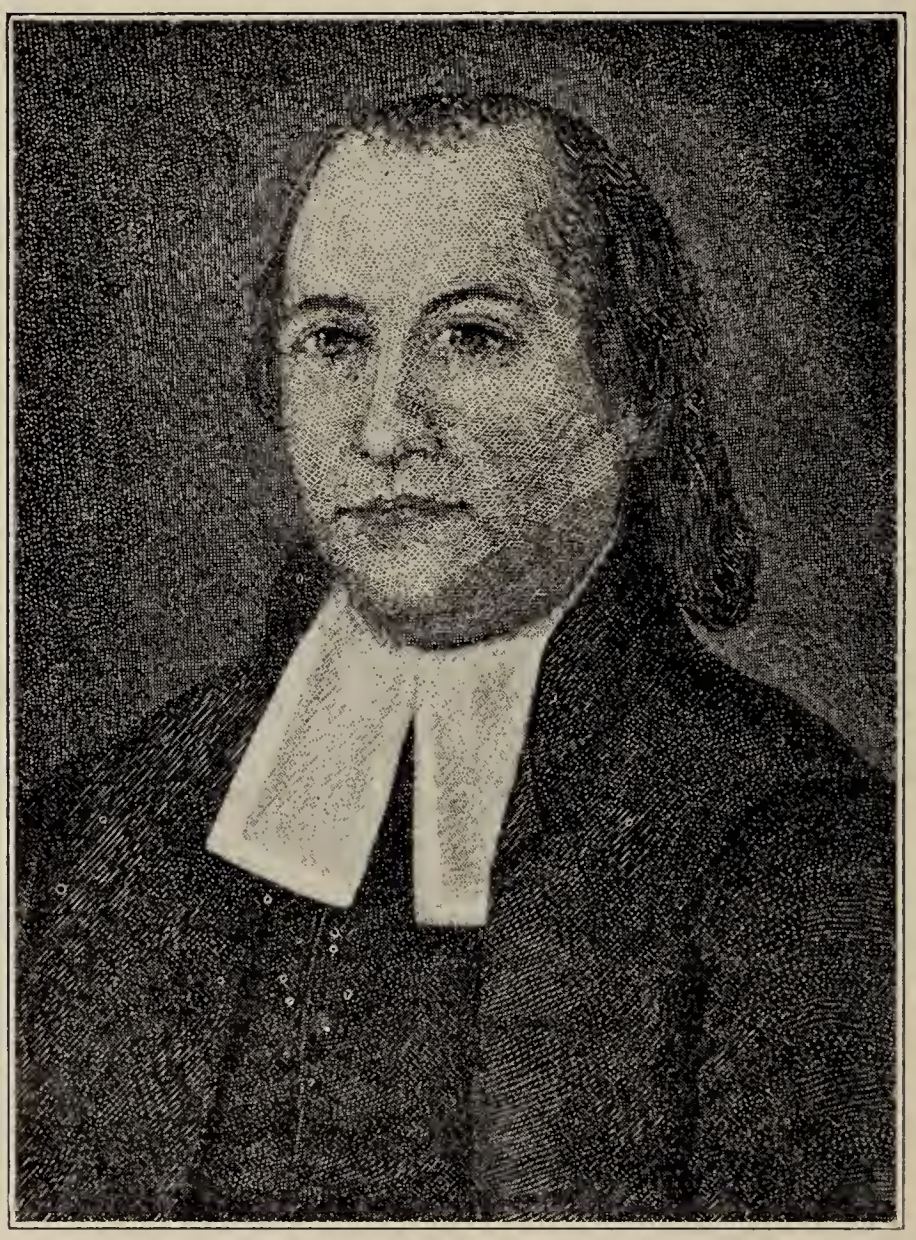


HENRY C. WHITMAN
TOWN CLERK AND TOWN TREASURER

Rev. Nathan Perkins, D.D. Rev. Nathan Perkins, who came to West Hartford in 1773 as pastor of the Congregational Church and continued in that position until his death in 1838, was one of the most prominent citizens of the town during its early history, a man of distinguished ability and accomplishments.

He purchased the house on the west side of Goodman Park which had been built in 1758 for his predecessor, Rev. Nathaniel Hooker, Jr., and which is now the rectory of St. James Episcopal

Church. This was his home during all the years of his pastorate. He owned also at one time over two hundred acres of land in the parish and was interested in the cultivation of grain and the breeding of fine horses. One section of land owned by him was on the north side of the Farmington Turnpike at the point now known as West Hill. He built there a fine house for his son, Nathan Perkins, Jr., which in later years became the residence of Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. It is now on a different site, and in a modernized condition is the residence of Frederick W. Arnold, at the corner of Farmington Avenue and Walkley Road.



REV. NATHAN PERKINS, D.D.

Dr. Perkins was greatly interested in the cause of education. For many years he was a prominent member of the school committee of the parish, visiting the schools regularly and at times questioning the scholars in respect to the contents of the catechism. He prepared for this purpose a catechism of his own. He taught young men who came to his home for instruction and recitation in preparation for entrance to college.

In addition to the service which he rendered in the community as pastor, preacher, and educational leader, he was prominently and efficiently identified with religious, educational, and missionary movements in the State and in broader fields. In 1789 he was appointed by the Association of Hartford County in cooperation with the General Association of Connecticut to go as a home missionary to preach the gospel to the "New Settlements in Vermont." He made the journey on horseback, leaving his home on the morning of April 27th. He spent the first night at the parsonage of the Congregational Church in Southwick, Mass. He reached Vermont on April 30th. He visited many frontier settlements, preaching in churches, barns, private dwellings, etc., until the twenty-second of June. His diary kept at the time reveals many conditions of living and of religious destitution in those frontier settlements, in marked contrast with conditions at West Hartford and in his own home.

Dr. Perkins was one of the company of ministers who met in Farmington in 1810 for the promotion of foreign missions through the organization known as the American Board. At a later date he invited a company of ministers to meet in the West Hartford parsonage to consider the proposition of establishing a theological school at East Windsor Hill, and in 1824 he was invited to lay the corner stone of the first building of the Connecticut Theological Institute, now the Hartford Theological Seminary.

On the sixtieth anniversary of his installation as pastor of the West Hartford Church, he preached a sermon in which he gave a general summary of his ministerial labors. He stated that he had preached four thousand written sermons and three thousand extemporaneous ones, had attended sixty installation and ordination councils and preached twenty sermons on such occasions, had attended one hundred ecclesiastical councils, and had fitted one hundred fifty young men for college.

In 1836, Mrs. Lydia H. Sigourney, the Hartford poet, in consideration of Dr. Perkins' remarkable record, wrote a poem addressed to his inkstand, which was printed in The *New York Commercial Advertiser.*

To An Ancient Inkstand used more than sixty years in the study of the Rev. Dr. Nathan Perkins, of West Hartford.

Capacious vase, so long decreed
The roots of intellect to feed,
And, patient, aid the graphic art,
To tinge the thought, and touch the heart,
Who can thy varied toils portray,

Thy tireless zeal, both night and day?
Ordained to serve from youth to age,
The saint, philosopher, and sage,
Who, laboring for his Saviour's sake
The slumber of the soul to wake,
Beholds with clear and heavenward eye
Time's frosty years pass harmless by;
Oh, still that honored master's will
With faithful diligence fulfill,
Until, his high commission o'er,
He needs such humble friend no more;
Then take thy place, with ancient state,
Mid relics of the good and great."

Noah Webster. The most distinguished native of West Hartford in all the years of its history was Noah Webster, son of Noah Webster, Sen. He was born in 1758. His boyhood home was on an eighty acre farm located on the main road running from north to south through the town, now known as West Hartford Main Street, and about half a mile south of the South Middle Road to Farmington, now Park Road. The Webster farm embraced some of the land in the section now known as Webster Heights.

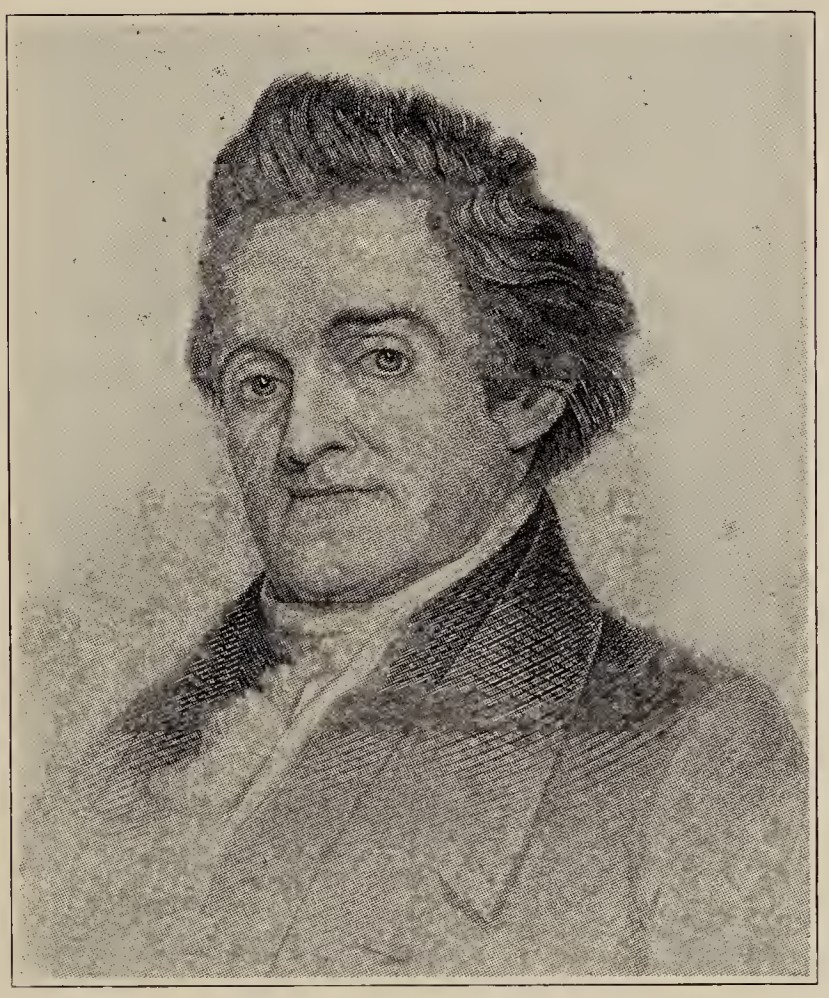
Noah Webster was a descendant on his father's side of Governor John Webster of Connecticut, and on his mother's side of Governor William Bradford of Massachusetts. Noah Webster, Senior, was a prominent citizen of the community, rendering service as a justice of the peace or local judge, and as a deacon of the local church for many years. During the War of the Revolution he was in service as captain of a company of soldiers.

After Noah Webster, the son, had completed the studies of the public school, probably the one known as the South Middle School, which was nearest to his home, he attended for a time the Hopkins Grammar School of Hartford. Having an earnest desire to obtain a college education, he studied with Rev. Dr. Nathan Perkins, pastor of the village church, and was one of the one hundred fifty young men who were prepared for college by Dr. Perkins during his long pastorate in West Hartford.

In 1774 Noah Webster entered Yale College, making the journey to New Haven on horseback. When the War of the Revolution broke out, the course of instruction and study in the college was interrupted for a time but he graduated in 1778. While he was in college, General George Washington passed through New Haven on his way to Cambridge to take command

of the American army. It is related that he and his companions were escorted from New Haven for a distance on their way to Hartford by a drum and fife band in which Noah Webster played a fife.

After graduating from Yale College, he taught school for a time in Glastonbury, West Hartford, and other communities, including Goshen in the State of New York. While teaching in Goshen he prepared and published his first book, which was a



NOAH WEBSTER

combination of reader and grammar, called by him "A Grammatical Treatise." He was conscious of the scarcity of suitable textbooks and material for use in the public schools of those times, and was intent on providing for the more satisfactory education of the young.

His next publication was "The Webster Spelling Book," which was first published in 1783 and which for many years had a large sale in all parts of the country. It is related that Mr. Webster's income from the royalty which he received from the sale of the spelling book was sufficient for his family and personal expenses for a number of years.

Probably Noah Webster is most widely known and most highly distinguished as the compiler of the dictionary of the English language which bears his name. This was first published in 1828.

For several years he resided in Amherst, Mass., while engaged in his literary pursuits, and became greatly interested in promotion of a movement for the founding of a college in that community. In 1821, when the college was finally founded, he was elected President of the board of trustees.

Noah Webster was recognized in this and in other countries as one of the foremost authors, educators, and statesmen of his day and generation.

He cherished always a fond affection for his boyhood home. It was sold to Mr. Samuel Hurlburt, whose family resided there for many years. Mrs. Hurlburt told the writer of Mr. Webster's visit to the home of his boyhood and of his pointing out to her

BIRTHPLACE OF NOAH WEBSTER

objects of interest to him, including some trees which he had planted in his boyhood. He manifested a substantial interest also in the community, donating to it a considerable number of volumes from his own library as the nucleus for the establishment of a public library in the community.

West Hartford citizens in his day and generation and subsequent years seem to have been slow to recognize and honor their most distinguished son, but in these later years such recognition has been given in connection with the erection of the library building which bears his name and the portrait which adorns its walls, the gift of the school children of the town, and

there are public spirited citizens at the present time who speak of some additional token of appreciation and honor.

Mr. Webster died in New Haven, 1843. A large, substantial monument marks the place of his burial in the Central Cemetery of that city.

Moses Goodman. In 1777, when the American soldiers were suffering on account of hardships and want at Valley Forge, the people of this section of Connecticut around Hartford contributed the sum of $30,000 to be sent to them for their relief. When question arose as to how this money could be safely conveyed, Moses Goodman of West Hartford bravely volunteered to take it to Valley Forge on horseback.

SADDLEBAGS OF MOSES GOODMAN

He placed the money in his saddlebags, mounted his fine trained horse, and in due time accomplished the daring feat, returning to his home in safety. It is related of him that when he stopped for the night on his journey at some tavern or inn, he would throw his saddle-bags down in a corner or under a bench, thus disarming suspicion. It is also related that at some of the places where he spent the night, some of the people were very desirious of obtaining possession of his fine horse, and that at one time he greatly feared that his horse would be taken from him.

As he was about to start out in the morning, he would say to those who were desirous of securing his horse,

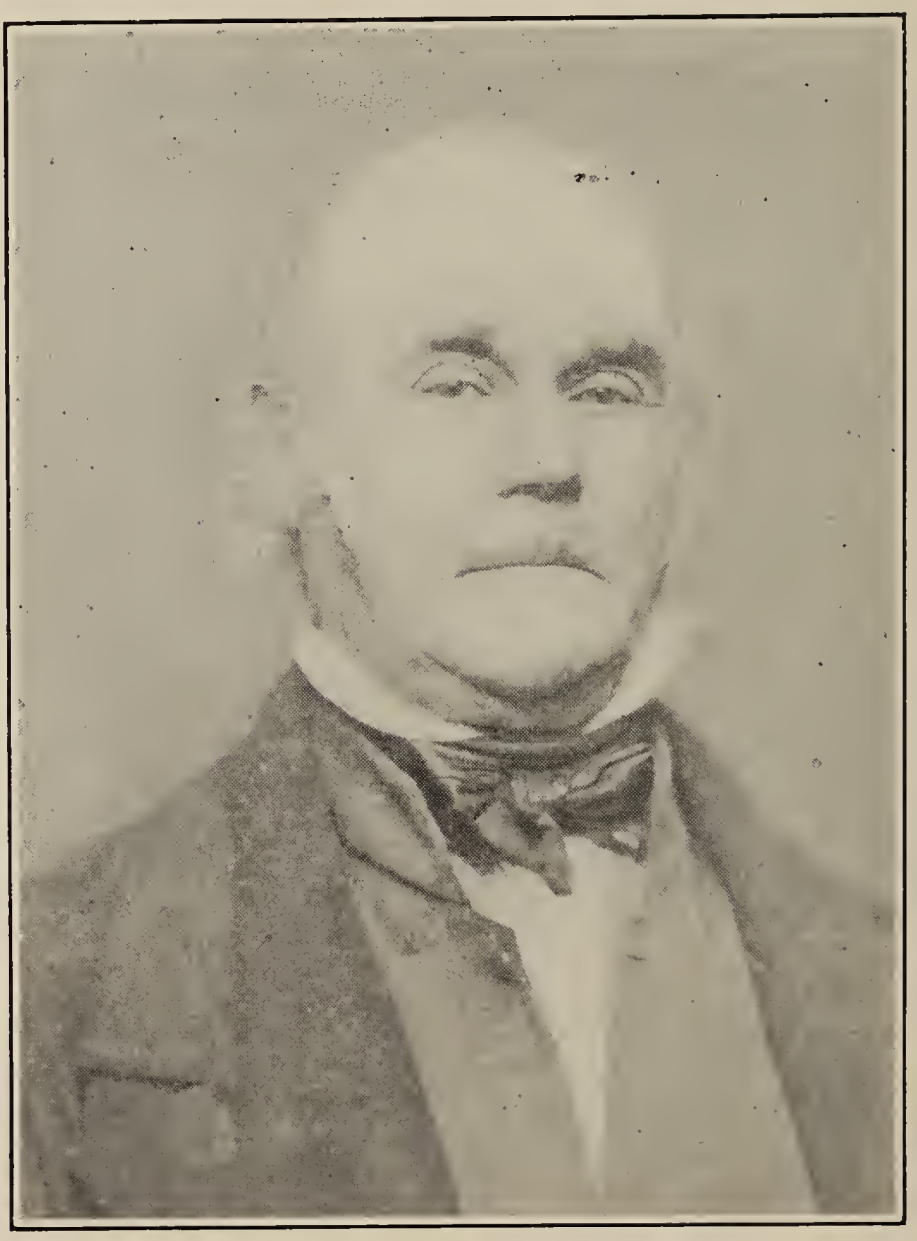
"You don't want a lame horse."

"No," they would reply, "but your horse isn't lame."

"He is quite lame at times," Mr. Goodman would say giving his horse the signal to limp in accordance with a trick which he had taught him, and so rode away in safety.

Mr. Goodman's saddlebags are now in the possession of his great-great grandson, Henry H. Selden, of Selden Hill. The girl represented holding them for the photographer is Virginia Selden, grand-daughter of Henry H. Selden, and daughter of Henry Selden, Jr.

Benjamin Gilbert. Benjamin Gilbert was one of the influential leaders in the company of Quakers who for a period of years



BENJAMIN GILBERT

maintained a meetinghouse for worship and a school for the education of their children on Quaker Lane. He was a man of large stature and genial manners, familiarly spoken of by friends

and associates as Uncle Ben. He was a farmer, well-to-do, interested in public affairs, a large landholder. At one time he and his brother Charles, who lived near him, owned all the land between the now West Hill property to the river at the Center now called Trout Brook, and also considerable land north of Fern Street, east of Steele Road and south of Farmington Avenue, east and west of Quaker Lane.

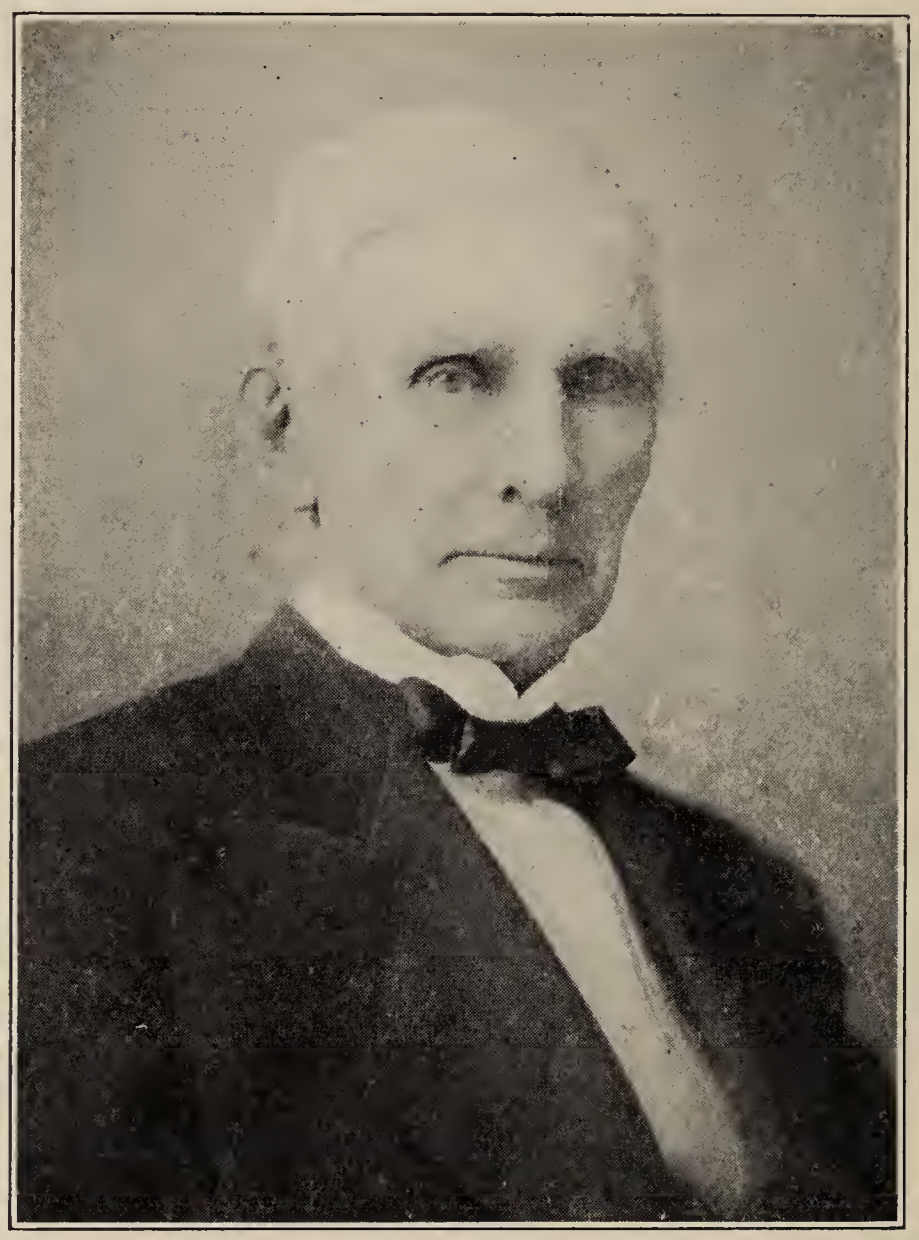
BENJAMIN GILBERT HOUSE

The Benjamin Gilbert home was formerly on the north side of Farmington Avenue and the west side of Quaker Lane. It was moved to the north a few years ago to make room for the brick apartment houses now on that corner.

Judge Samuel H. Huntington. Judge Samuel H. Huntington was born in Suffield, Connecticut, in 1793, a member of a distinguished New England family. He graduated from Yale College in 1818, was judge of the Hartford County Court from 1842 to 1850 and later, judge of the Court of Appeals in Washington, D. C. He was a trustee of Trinity College from 1830 to 1858.

For many years he was a resident and influential citizen of West Hartford. He owned a large tract of land on the south side of Albany Avenue, east of Steel Lane. His house, which stood on high ground just east of Steel Lane, was one of the finest

residences of the town at the time. Judge Huntington was one of the leaders in the organization of St. James Episcopal Church at West Hartford Center in 1843, and was also a leader and stockholder in the reorganization of the old Academy Association and



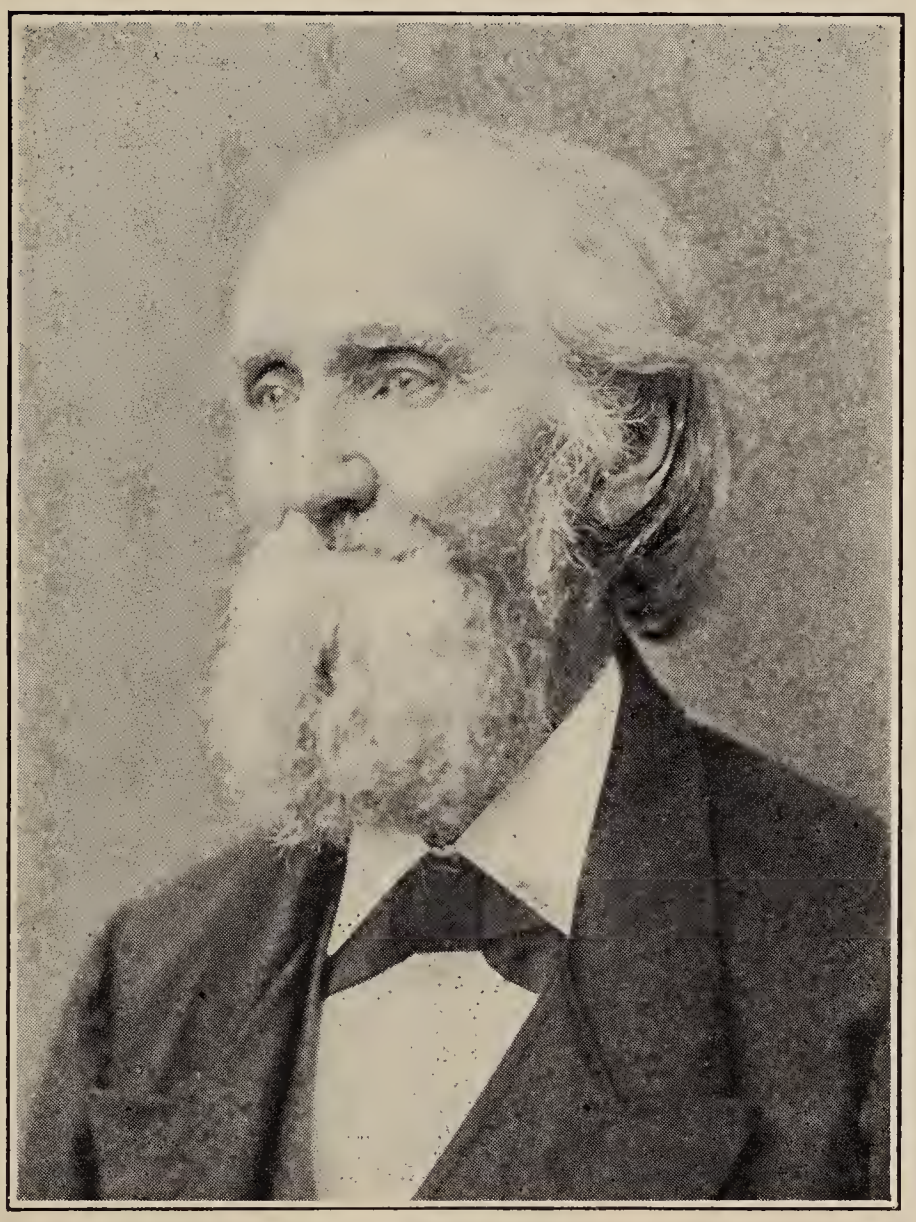
JUDGE SAMUEL HUNTINGTON

in the erection of the new Academy building on the east side of the park.

He removed later to Hartford, purchasing land on the north side of Asylum Avenue and building a residence near which Huntington Street named in his honor was later opened. He died in 1880.

Dr. Edward Brace. Edward Brace was born in 1798 in the old Brace homestead which was located in the western part of the town on a farm which has in these later years been known as Sunset Farm. After his graduation from college and medical school, he began to practice as a physician in West Hartford

and for many years was the only practicing physician in the town. He was highly esteemed for his Christian character, serving many years as a deacon in the Congregational Church. He died in 1879.



DR. EDWARD BRACE

Charles Boswell. Charles Boswell, born in Norwich, Connecticut, in 1802, moved to Hartford when he was 16 years old, and later engaged in business as a wholesale grocer. He became a prosperous and permanent citizen of the city, serving as president of the Farmers' Mechanics Bank. He was connected with the Hartford Fire Insurance Company for more than 40 years. He was one of the founders of the Atheneum, and an influential citizen. He moved to West Hartford in 1861, where he became deeply interested in the welfare of the town and rendered services in various positions of influence, having the esteem of his fellow citizens. When it was contemplated to build a new Congregational Church in West Hartford in 1882, Mr. Boswell sug-

gested that if the people would build a stone church, he would make a personal contribution of $10,000 for that purpose, and his suggestion was adopted.

He represented the town at the legislature. He also held other positions of influence and contributed in a liberal way to the welfare and prosperity of the community.

Dr. Warren S. Crane. One of the most familiar figures seen in West Hartford in 1844 and for many years thereafter was that of Dr. Warren S. Crane, dentist, riding in his gig every week day from his home to his office in Hartford and returning at night. Dr. Crane was of distinguished lineage, a descendant of several prominent early Hartford families.

In 1836 he bought the office at No. 8 State Street, Hartford, where cousins of his had practiced dentistry since 1827, and where he practiced until 1853, when he was succeeded by his son, Dr. Samuel L. G. Crane, who occupied the office until his death in 1917. This is a remarkable record of continuous practice by members of the Crane family in the same office.

Dr. Crane's home in West Hartford was the house still standing on the southwest corner of South Main Street and Park Road, which is now the property of the Thomson family.

Dr. Crane had a large family of children. One of his daughters, Mrs. John M. G. Brace, was a talented musician and served as the organist of the Congregational Church from the date of the installation of the first organ in 1867 for twenty-three years. She was most efficient and devoted in this long continued and highly appreciated service. Mrs. Harriet Crane Pitblado of Hartford, well known as an accomplished musical artist, is a granddaughter of Dr. Warren S. Crane.

Col. Solomon S. Flagg. Solomon S. Flagg was a native of West Hartford, a son of Abijah Flagg, and one of a large family of children. His home was in the northern part of the town on West Hartford Main Street, where he owned one of the largest farms in the town, embracing at the time of his death in 1876 about six hundred acres. In 1843 he built for his residence a new house which at the time was considered one of the finest modern houses in the town. Later, it was the residence of James Miller. It has been recently removed to make way for real estate developments.

He acquired his title of Colonel in connection with the old militia company that used to parade on Goodman Park and throughout his life was usually spoken of by those who knew him as Colonel Flagg. He held important official positions in the Ecclesiastical Society and was a constant attendant and loyal member of the Congregational Church, driving from his home

every Sunday to the church, returning during the midday intermission, and driving back to the Center for the afternoon service. He always drove a pair of horses.

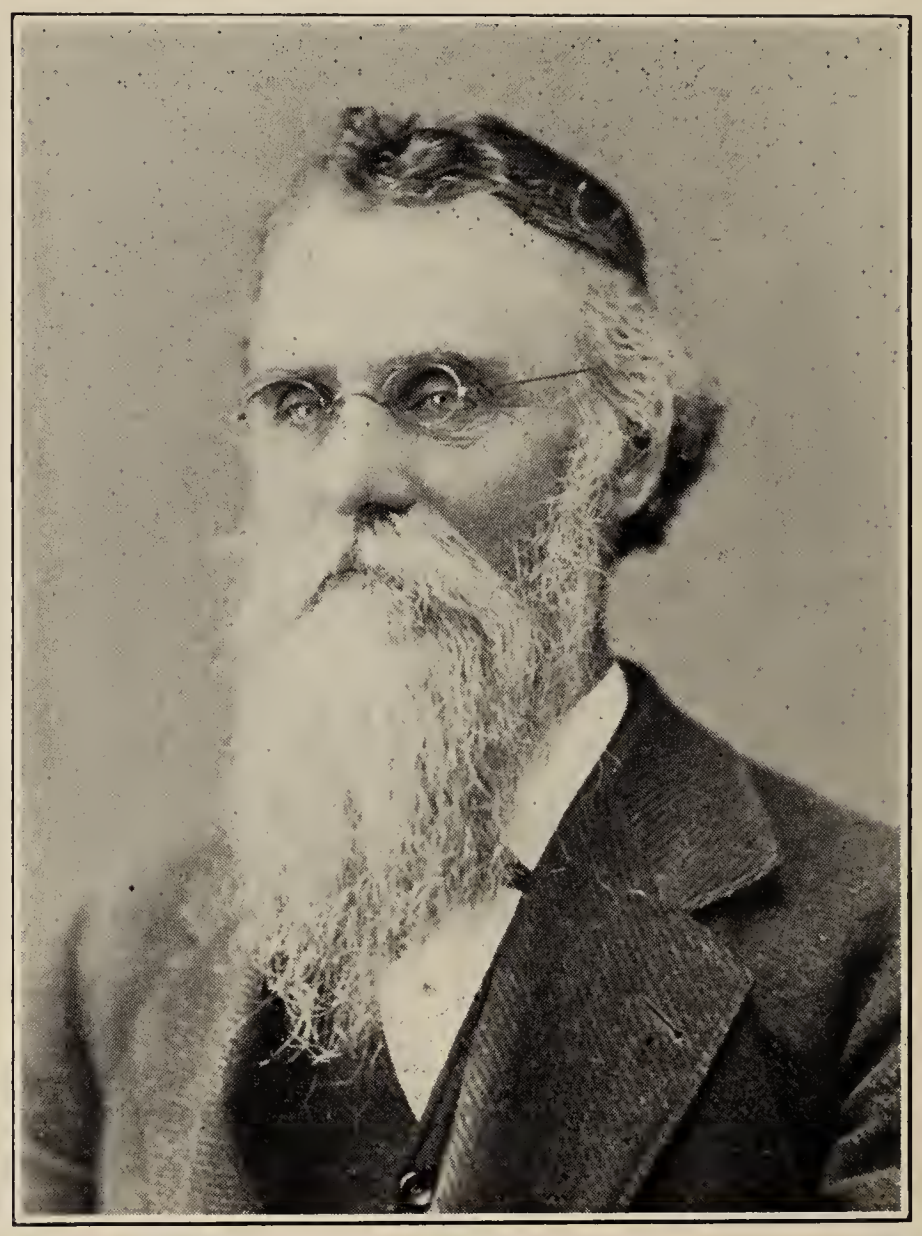
When the movement was made in 1854 for the separation of West Hartford from Hartford, he was one of the prominent citizens to circulate the petition and was the first person to sign it. After West Hartford became a separate town, he was the first person to be elected to the office of First Selectman and at

THE SOLOMON S. FLAGG HOUSE, BUILT IN 1843

different times in later years held that position. He was often moderator at town meetings, and on election days presiding at the ballot box and was able to call every voter by name. He was a strong Republican in politics, having but little consideration for those of the opposite party, and was vigilant in watchfulness of young men casting their first ballot to make sure that they were on the right side.

Leonard Buckland. Leonard Buckland was born in Hartford December 22, 1812. His father died while Leonard was still a boy, and he was "put out" to be brought up in the family of a farmer who lived in the northern part of West Hartford. The farmer was of a penurious disposition and the boy committed to his care fared hard in respect to food, clothing, opportunities for play and recreation and for obtaining an education.

When he was old enough to "look out for himself," he left the home of the farmer and entered the shop of Capt. George Flagg at the North End to learn the trade of a shoemaker. He continued in the employ of Capt. Flagg for several years, becoming an expert workman, and then removed to West Hartford Center to work in the shoe shop of Nathan Burr, which was located on the second floor of a plain two-story building which stood on the southwest corner of Farmington Turnpike and the main street of West Hartford.



LEONARD BUCKLAND

Here on this corner he was destined to spend the remainder of his life, purchasing the property and enlarging it to provide for a family residence in connection with the store, succeeding Mr. Burr as postmaster, building up a substantial grocery business, and for thirty-three years serving as the town clerk of West Hartford, keeping the records in a room devoted to the purpose in the rear of the store.

Mr. Buckland was greatly interested in reading, and improved every opportunity to secure information in respect to history,

science, and literature. In the later years of his life he was a well informed man, despite his lack of educational opportunities when he was young. He was a fine musician, playing the flute and violin. He was an expert penman and at one time taught classes in penmanship.

While his voice was not often heard in public meetings, he improved every opportunity in private conversation to advocate measures for the promotion of the highest interests of the community and in this way was regarded as a public spirited citizen. His fellow citizens honored him by electing him twice to represent the town in the General Assembly of Connecticut. He manifested such a public spirit and rendered such effective service that he may properly be considered one of the leading citizens of the town.

Henry Talcott. Henry Talcott, a descendent of Joseph Talcott, who was Governor of Connecticut from 1725 to 1742, was born in that section of West Hartford now called Elmwood in 1815. He attended the local public schools in the South district and later attended and graduated from the Academy in Farmington, Connecticut, which was considered to be a very fine preparatory school. He was greatly interested in reading history, literature, and educational books, and was considered to be one of the most highly educated men in the community. He became a Civil Engineer, and for a number of years was County Surveyor for Hartford County.

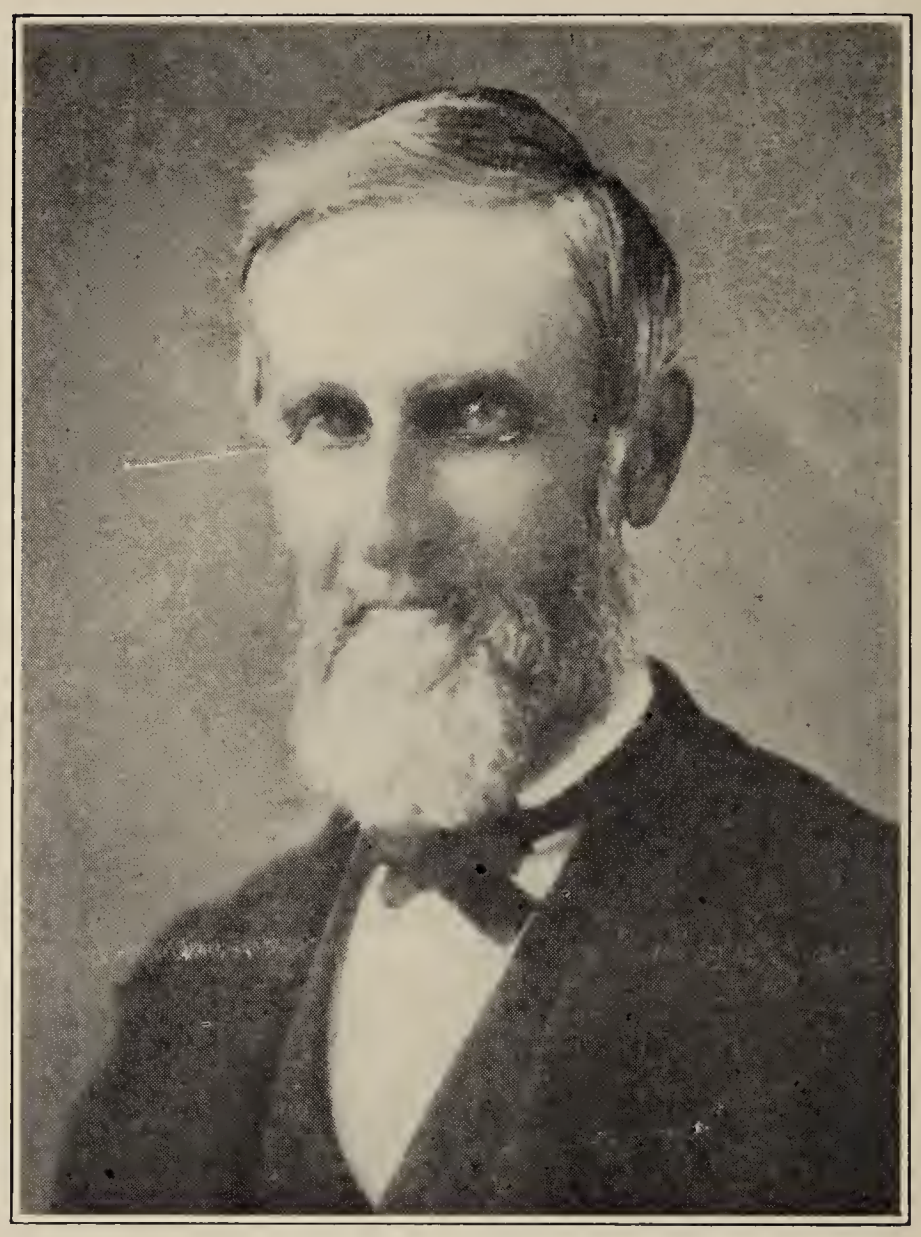
In 1840 he championed a movement for the erection of a modern schoolhouse in the South district, but his ideas were so far in advance of those of his fellow citizens that his project met with strong opposition. It was only after a prolonged discussion of the matter that he and his associates were successful in carrying out their plans in 1852.

Mr. Talcott served a number of years as acting school visitor for the town, examining teachers and giving them their certificates, visiting the schools, and in a general way caring for their interests. In 1872 he advocated the opening of a high school for the benefit of the older boys and girls of the community, and was successful in securing a vote of the town by which that school was established in December, 1872.

He was active in the affairs of the town in other lines, serving for several years as first selectman. He was greatly interested and very active in connection with the affairs and work of the Congregational Church, serving on important committees from time to time, and for many years conducted a very large and successful adult Bible class in connection with the Sunday school.

Mr. Talcott was elected chairman of the town school committee in 1885, and served in that capacity until his death, which occurred February, 1888.

At a meeting of the town school committee held February 18, 1888, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "By the recent death of Mr. Henry Talcott, this committee has been deprived of its efficient and esteemed chairman, and the community of an intelligent and active citizen. Mr. Talcott, during all the years of his citizenship, which have been many,



HENRY TALCOTT

has always maintained a warm and active interest in educational methods and in various positions of influence and trust. He has labored continually and successfully for the improvement of our schools and the advance of the cause of education. We desire, hereby, to record our deep sense of loss as a committee and as citizens, and to extend to his family our tender sympathy in that great affliction."

William Faxon. William Faxon, a descendent of Capt. Ebenezer Faxon, was born in the Faxon Home in West Hartford in 1822. In his manhood he became a member of the firm of Boswell & Faxon, proprietors of the Courant Press Company,

publishers of the Connecticut Courant. During the Civil War he served as Chief Clerk of the United States Navy Department, to which position he was appointed by Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Faxon was one of the prominent leaders in the organization of the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company of Hartford.

Hon. Yung Wing. Yung Wing was one of three Chinese young men who were brought to the United States in 1841 for the purpose of obtaining an English education. They were brought by Rev. Samuel R. Brown, an American missionary in China. Mr. Brown was a native of the town of Monson, Massachusetts, and he took the young men to the Academy in that town to be taught. When Yung Wing had completed the course of study in Monson Academy, he entered Yale College and attained high rank as a student. He graduated in 1854, the first Chinese youth to graduate from that college.

He returned to his native land and remained there, occupying positions of high rank and honor until 1873, when he came again to the United States with a company of thirty Chinese young men who were to be educated in our public schools. They, and others who came later, attended some of the public schools in Hartford, and also a school established for them under the direction of Yung Wing in a building which was erected on Collins Street.

At a later period Yung Wing was appointed to the position of Chinese Minister, representing his country at Washington.

In 1880 he purchased property on the northwest corner of Fern Street and Prospect Avenue and built a fine residence there, in which he and his family lived for a number of years. The house was afterwards the residence of A. L. Foster, a clothing merchant of Hartford.

Yung Wing became a legal voter and a public spirited citizen of West Hartford, discharging the duties of a loyal and interested citizen and honoring the town as the first and most distinguished native of China to occupy such a position. He was highly esteemed in the community.

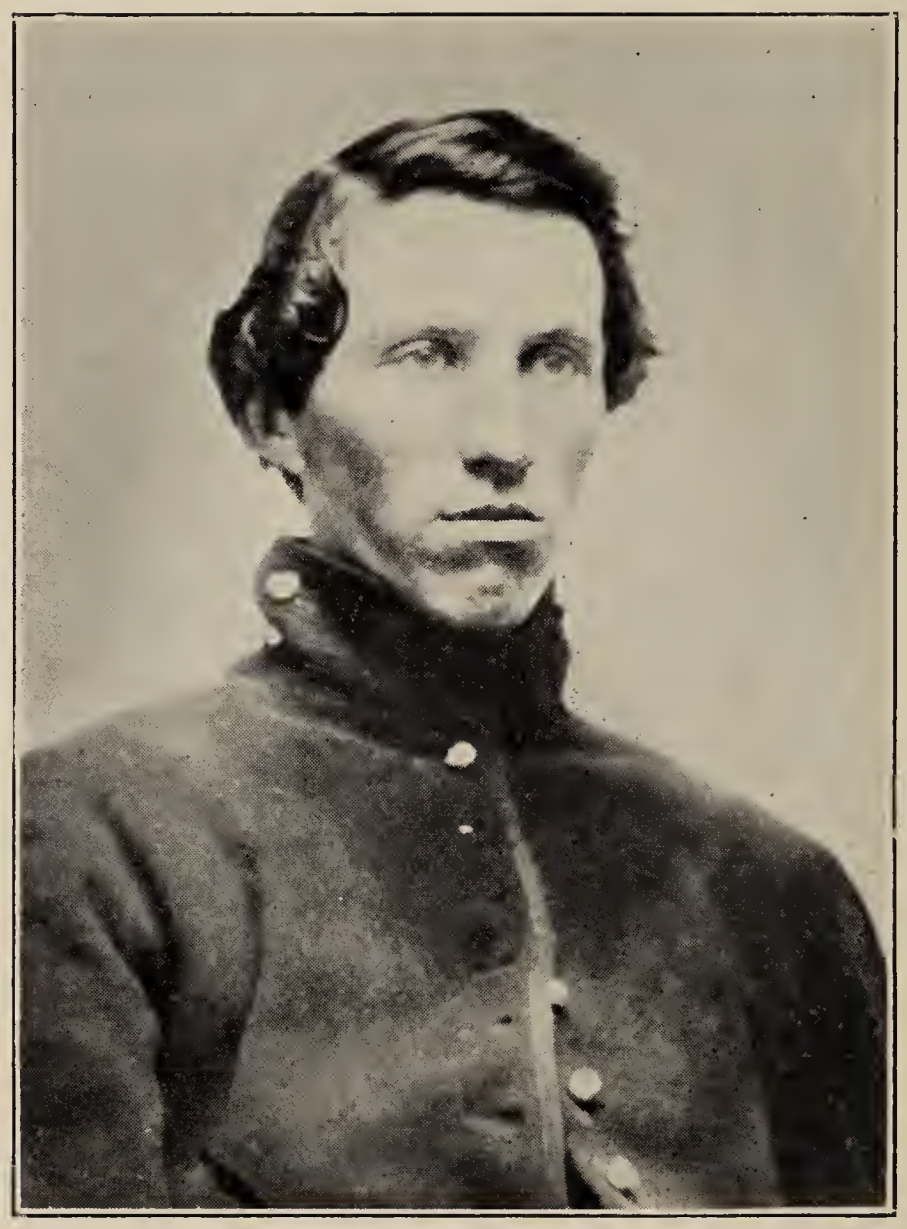
Rose Terry Cooke. Rose Terry was born in West Hartford in 1827. The Terry home was on a farm on the south side of Albany Turnpike just west of Steele Lane, where St. Mary's Home for aged people is now located.

She attended the Hartford Female Seminary, from which she graduated in 1843. She wrote many stories and poems and published a book of miscellaneous poems in 1860. Among her stories the most prominent were "Happy Dodd," "Somebody's

Neighbors," "Root Bound," and "Two Villages." Her writings abound in interesting sketches of New England life.

In 1843 she was married to R. W. Cooke of Winsted, and had her home in that community for many years.

Hiram W. Elmer. In 1856 when the struggle broke out between the forces of the slave states and the free states, to determine whether Kansas should come into the Union as a free state or a slave state, many New England people rushed to Kansas



HIRAM W. ELMER

to become citizens of that state and help decide the question as to its future. West Hartford had its representative in that struggle in the person of Hiram W. Elmer, son of Oliver S. Elmer, whose home was on Albany Turnpike, where Mr. John A. Hawley now lives. Shortly after, he had a severe illness as the result of the hardships which he endured in that struggle, and was obliged to return to his home in West Hartford the next year.

On August 14, 1862, he enlisted as private in the First

Division, Connecticut Cavalry, First Brigade, under General Custer, Third Division, under Sheriden, Company I, in response to Abraham Lincoln's call for 75,000 men. He was in many battles, and at one time had his hat shot off from his head and his horse killed under him. He captured the horse of a Confederate soldier who had been killed, and so escaped. He served for a time as a clerk in the office of the Adjutant General.

In 1864 he was appointed hospital steward and surgeon's assistant, and held that position until his discharge at the end of the war. His duties took him into the battle-field, where he cared for the dead and wounded. He was given a testimonial by the Government for his faithful discharge of duty as hospital steward. He returned to West Hartford and later made his home in Parkville, where he became a prominent and efficient citizen. Dr. E. O. Elmer, a well-known physician of Parkville, is his son.

Ralph Gaylord Wells. Ralph Gaylord Wells was born in a house which stood on the south side of Albany Turnpike well up to the top of Talcott Mountain. He lived in that house until his death, which occurred in 1888. During his lifetime he had the unique experience of being a resident of three towns, first of Farmington, then of Hartford, and finally of West Hartford.

He was a man of sterling Christian character, quiet and dignified in manner, highly esteemed by his fellow citizens, and chosen by them repeatedly to render public service in different official positions, including that of representing the town in the General Assembly.

He was for many years a member of the Congregational Church of West Hartford and was chosen to serve in important official positions from time to time. Although living at a greater distance from the church than most of its members, he was one of the most regular attendants at its services on Sunday.

George B. Francis. George B. Francis, son of Blinn and Lucy Hart Francis, was born at West Hartford Center in 1857. He was one of the first group of young people in attendance at the West Hartford High School when it was first opened in 1872, and later graduated from the Hartford High School. In both schools he was recognized as a young man of fine intellectual ability.

One day a few years after his graduation the writer received a letter from Samuel M. Gray, City Engineer of Providence, R. I., asking if he could recommend a good young man to enter his employ, and George Francis was recommended. In connection with several years experience in that position and subsequent study he became a proficient engineer, and when the new South

GEORGE B. FRANCIS

Railroad Station in Boston was built he was the resident supervision engineer and his name appears on a tablet at the main entrance to that building.

Later, in connection with the Westinghouse, Church, Keer and Company of New York City, he rendered efficient service as a consulting engineer, being called to different sections of the country for advise in connection with the construction of large buildings and plants. He died in the prime of manhood in 1913 and was buried in the family lot in the West Hartford Cemetery.

Dr. Caroline F. Hamilton. Caroline F. Hamilton, daughter of Benedict W. and Electa Hamilton, was born in West Hartford in 1861. The Hamilton home at that time was on the south side of Farmington Avenue, just east of Trout Brook, where her father owned a farm of 70 acres. The house is now the residence of Glover M. White.

She attended the West Hartford High School after it was first opened in 1872. She graduated from Hartford High School

in 1880, and from Smith College in 1885. She then pursued a course of study in the New York Women's Medical College, from which she graduated in 1888. After her graduation she spent a year as interne in the hospital; later she was engaged in college settlement work in New York, as visiting physician. She also taught in the Medical College and was resident physician in the New York Infant Asylum.

DR. CAROLINE F. HAMILTON

After pursuing a course of graduate study in New York, in 1892 she was appointed as medical missionary in the hospital in Aintab, Turkey, in Asia, where she has rendered devoted and efficient service during all the succeeding years, with the exception of 18 months, from 1920 until 1922, when on account of the massacres and expulsion of the Armenians by the Turks the hospital had to be abandoned. During that time she was in charge of an orphanage in Beirut, where there were 300 children. She returned to Aintab in February, 1922. During her term of

service, she has passed through the trying experiences in connection with three massacres in Aintab, in which the mob came to the very gates of the hospital grounds and it seemed probable that they would destroy, in one instance, all the inmates.

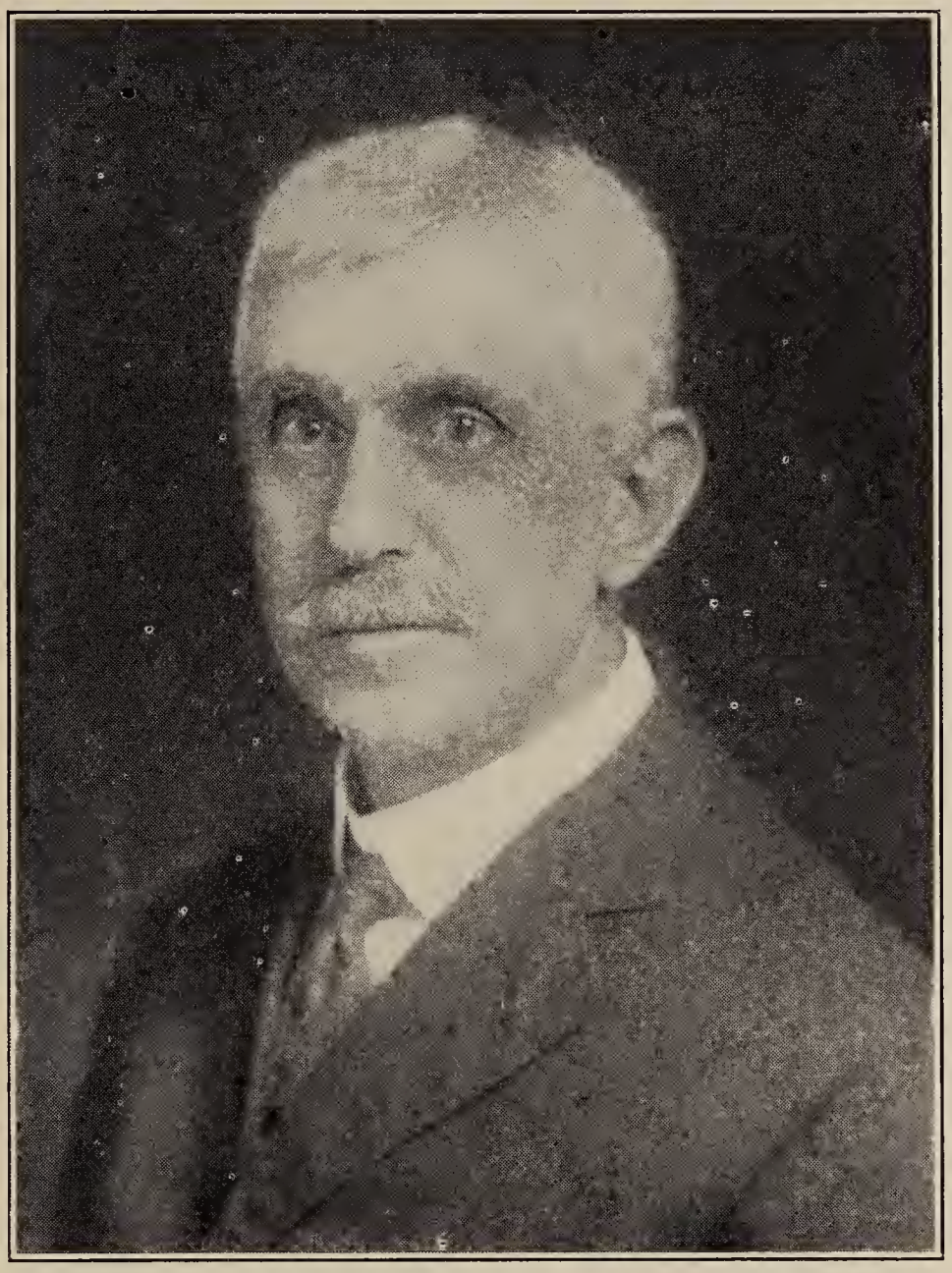
In addition to her medical work in the hospital, she has rendered service in behalf of sick and needy people in all parts of the city, often going to their homes when exposed to great danger, in the spirit of bravery and devotion. She has rendered service also in connection with the mission church and school, in which she played the organ, taught the children, and conducted services, and in other ways aided in the work which has been carried on in behalf of the Armenian adults and children.

For 37 years she has been engaged in this self-sacrificing, important work. During all that time she has been a member of the Congregational Church in West Hartford, deeply interested in its welfare, often writing letters to its members and, in turn, receiving communications from them, and gifts of money and supplies at Christmas time from the Bible School. On the occasions when she has returned to the United States on a furlough, she has been called upon to give addresses at missionary meetings and in churches in many communities.

Benjamin Sterling Bishop. Benjamin Sterling Bishop, usually spoken of as Sterling Bishop, son of Benjamin Bishop, although a man of modest disposition and quiet manner, seldom speaking in the public meetings or manifesting any spirit of excitement with respect to public offices, was one of the most highly esteemed citizens of West Hartford during the period of its early history as a separate town. He was repeatedly chosen to public official positions, rendering efficient service as an assessor, justice of the peace, selectman and chairman of important committees. He was chosen at three different times to represent the town in the General Assembly of Connecticut.

Frank H. Stadtmueller, Mr. Frank H. Stadtmueller, a native of West Hartford, became a recognized leader and authority in dairying and agriculture as general manager of the Vine Hill Farm enterprise, to which position he was appointed by Mr. Charles M. Beach in 1885, and in which position he continued until his death. During those years he served at different times as president of the Hartford County League and Farm Bureau, as secretary of the Connecticut Forestry Association, as president of the Connecticut State Dairymen's Association, and as president of the Connecticut Sheep Breeders' Association. He was recognized and well known as the originator

and promoter of the certified milk business in Connecticut. He was widely known as a speaker and lecturer and was often called upon to give addresses or lectures at meetings and institutes far and near. In 1907 Governor Simeon E. Baldwin in recognition



FRANK H. STADTMUELLER

of his ability and achievements appointed him to the position of State Dairy Commissioner, in which position he rendered efficient service until his death.

During all these years Mr. Stadtmueller manifested a keen interest in the public affairs of West Hartford and served at different times as a member of the board of selectmen and for several years as secretary of the board of school visitors, as health officer for more than twenty years, as trial justice, and in other capacities. He manifested the same progressive spirit in respect to town affairs as characterized his business and official career in the larger field. He was a vestryman and efficient member of St. James Episcopal Church.

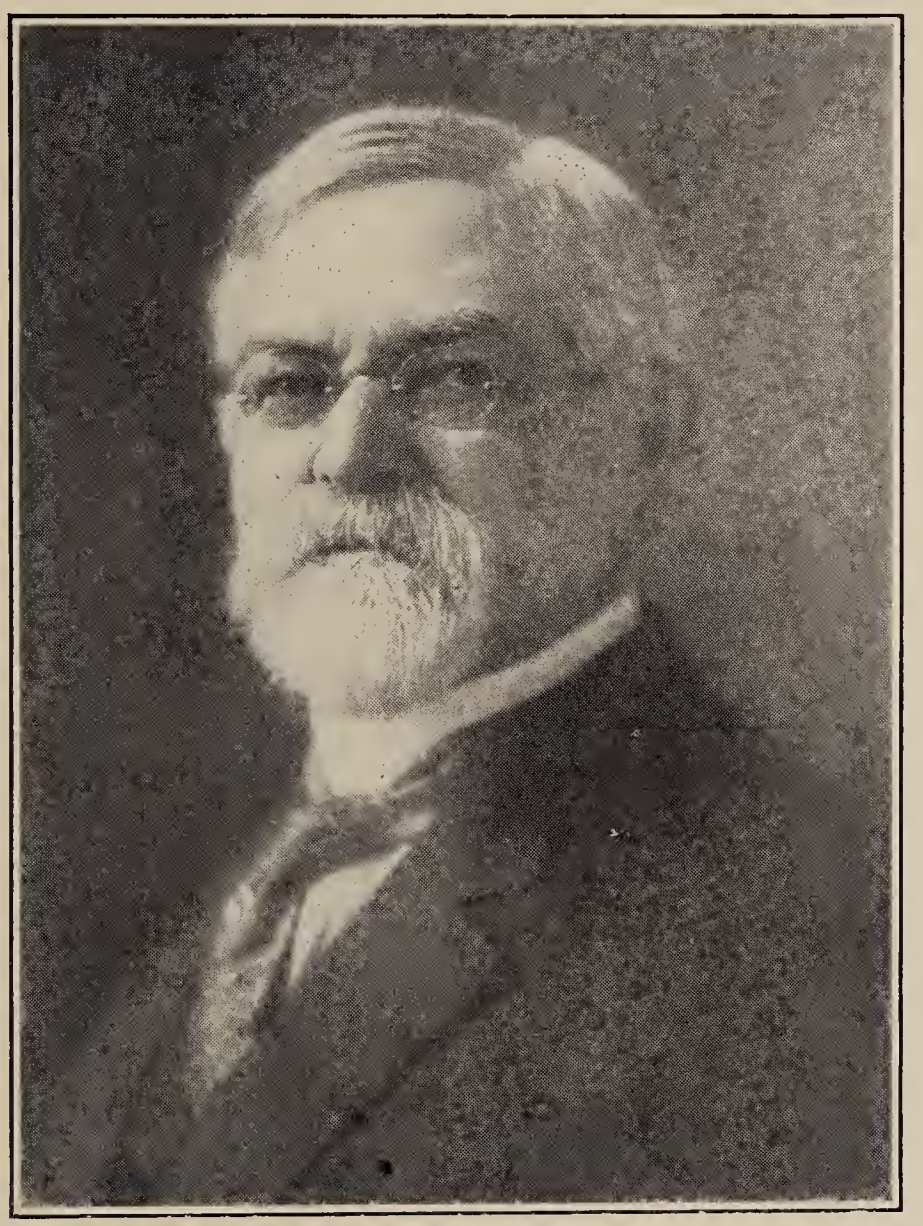
At the time of his death, which occurred in 1918, the resolutions adopted by the various organizations with which he had been identified bore affectionate tribute to him as an official and as a man greatly respected and beloved.

The Sternbergs. In 1854 Mr. Charles Sternberg, who had recently come to the United States from Germany, purchased a large farm in the western part of West Hartford. The family residence was on the north side of the road now known as Park Road, and at the southern end of Mountain Road. Mr. Sternberg's family consisted of his wife, one daughter, and eight sons.

WILLLIAM F. STERNBERG

While he was a highly educated gentleman and had occupied a high position as a lawyer in his own country, he had not acquired a knowledge of the English language and did not become a citizen of the United States, evidently preferring to lead a quiet life in the retirement of his home. But the spirit of patriotism was in his heart and home, and when the Civil War broke out

four of his sons, Francis, John, William, and Charles, enlisted. Three other sons would have gone into the conflict but Rudolph and Adolph could not be received because of defective eyesight and Richard was too young. The other son, Herman, had other disqualifications. Francis became colonel of a New York regiment and the other three sons were in Connecticut regiments.



ADOLPH C. STERNBERG

Charles died on the battlefield; William endured all the grievous experiences of confinement in Andersonville prison but he and John returned home at the close of the war.

William is now the only survivor of that family group of eleven persons. He is a resident of New Britain, a highly esteemed citizen, and honored and beloved as Adjutant of Stanley Post G.A.R.

Rev. James Gammack, L.L.D. Rev. Dr. James Gammack, rector of St. James Episcopal Church from 1895 to 1911, was a man of remarkably fine Christian character and spirit and of

high scholarly attainments. He was born in Turriff, Scotland, in 1837, consecrated by the Bishop of Aberdeen in 1861, and rendered efficient service in churches in Scotland and Canada. His first charge in Connecticut was in connection with the Episcopal Church in Plymouth, from which he came to West Hartford.

In connnection with his faithful efficient services as rector he accomplished a large amount of valuable service as a writer. He was the author of several books, including "The Hagiology and Parochial Dedication of Scotland," "The Memorial of Angus," "The Land of The Lindsays," and "The Mearns." He was a contributor to four volumes of "A Dictionary of Christian Biography, Sects, and Doctrines," and to two volumes of "Christian Antiquities."

He was held in high esteem by the publishers of his writings, who gave him the title of Ever Faithful, and he carried on his work, performed his duties as a citizen, and went about the community in the beautiful spirit of one of the humblest of our citizens.

Frederick E. Duffy. One day in the spring of 1900 a tall young man was seen starting to walk up North Main Street at West Hartford Center.

"Who is that?" asked a man who was standing on the post-office steps.

"That," replied his companion, "is the New York State school teacher who has bought the James Whitman farm."

James Whitman was a wealthy bachelor who had inherited a farm on the east side of North Main Street just beyond the bridge over Trout Brook, and had lived with his sisters in the fine old colonial house somewhat back from the street. He was not much of a farmer, cultivating only a little of the land and living a somewhat leisurely life. After his death the farm had been offered for sale and the "New York State school teacher" had bought it.

His name was Frederick E. Duffy. He had not only been a teacher but had rendered efficient service in the supervision of public schools as commissioner of public schools in Clinton County of that State. But he had also developed an intelligent and enthusiastic interest in the breeding of Jersey cattle and had come to West Hartford to devote his time and attention to that work and, although he had no conception at that time of the possible results, to become one of the most successful and widely known breeders of Jersey stock in the country.

He soon developed a fine herd of Jersey cows and gave much attention to the care and feeding of the same, producing a superior quality of milk and cream for daily delivery to Hartford families. The dairy products of Meadow Brook Farm acquired a high reputation.

Mr. Duffy was a subscriber for and reader of the leading publications devoted to stock breeding and dairying, and was called by the rural mail delivery route agent, "the Paper Farmer." He manifested an active interest in the promotion of the agricultural fairs of the State, and was often called upon to serve as a judge of the stock exhibit. In that capacity he was invited to cross the continent and serve as a judge in connection with state fairs on the Pacific Coast.

Mr. Duffy was a public spirited citizen, taking an active part in the political and civic affairs of the community and the state. He rendered efficient service as a member of the School Board of West Hartford for a term of years, and was elected a member of the Town Council when the Town Manager form of government was first adopted.

He died in 1928 after a brief illness.

THE JAMES WHITMAN HOUSE AS IT APPEARED WHEN PURCHASED BY F. E. DUFFY

Professor Edward Williams Morley. Edward Williams Morley, son of Reverend Sardis B. and Clarissa A. Treat Morley, was born in Newark, New Jersey, January 29, 1838.

While he was still a young boy, his father was obliged to give up preaching on account of impaired health, and was advised to live on a farm. He came to West Hartford and purchased a small farm located on the north side of The Talcott Mountain

Turnpike (now Albany Avenue) a little distance west of its junction with Flagg Road. The family resided here until 1851 when Mr. Morley had sufficiently regained his health to resume preaching and became pastor of a church in Attleboro, Massachusetts.

When the family were still residing in West Hartford, Rev. Mr. Morley, who was to drive to Hartford one day with his horse and wagon, took Edward with him, and while they were in Hartford, they visited the bookstore of Flavius A. Brown, which was then located on the south side of Asylum Street at the corner of Main Street.

Mr. Brown was much interested in Edward, and just before Rev. Mr. Morley and his son were to start on their return home, Mr. Brown said, "My boy, I want to give you a book. What kind of a book would you like?"

"A chemistry book, if you please," was the response, and the boy went home greatly delighted with his gift. In relating this incident to the writer in after years, he stated that he had found in his father's library a small old book on chemistry and had read it through and through and was greatly pleased to have a new and larger book on that subject.

After the removal of the family to Massachusetts, Edward studied in preparation for college under the instruction of his father, and entered Williams College from which he graduated in 1860.

Evidently it was his purpose to follow the example of his father and become a minister, for he became a student in Andover Theological Seminary and graduated in 1864. After his graduation he served for a time as a teacher in The South Berkeshire Institute, a private school located in the town of New Marlboro, Massachusetts. While teaching there, he was called to be the pastor of a church in Twinsboro, Ohio, and soon after was appointed to the position of Professor of Natural History and Chemistry in Western Reserve College at Hudson, Ohio, which was later removed to Cleveland and became, in conjunction with another institution, Western Reserve University. He continued to occupy that position until 1906, at the same time serving as Professor of Chemistry in The Cleveland Medical School.

During all those years he rendered very efficient service as an instructor and attained wide and prominent distinction as a leader in scientific investigation and accomplishments, receiving in recognition of his ability and success numerous medals and honorary titles from scientific organizations at home and abroad.

When he retired, he was made Professor Emeritus by Western Reserve University. He came to West Hartford in 1906 and built a home and laboratory on Westland Avenue. Without doubt the memories of his boyhood influenced him to a considerable extent in selecting the location of his home.

In 1907, while a resident of West Hartford, he was invited to go to London and receive from The Royal British Scientific Society the Sir Humphrey Davy Medal, in recognition of his discovery, by experimentation of the atomic weight of oxygen.

Professor Morley was highly esteemed as a loyal citizen of West Hartford, greatly interested in its churches and schools, and in the development of the highest interests of the community. He was admired by all who knew him for his charming spirit of gentlemanly modesty and sterling Christian character. He died on February 24, 1923.

On February 21, 1930, the teachers and scholars of the fine new large elementary public school located on the corner of Fern Street and Bretton Road, at their morning assembly in the auditorium, were informed that the School Board of West Hartford had adopted as the name of that school, "The Edward W. Morley School."

Charles Edward Beach. In 1859, five years after West Hartford became a separate town, Mr. Charles M. Beach of Hartford, of the firm of Beach & Company, purchased an ancient homestead with a few acres of land located on the east side of West Hartford Main Street near New Britain Avenue. He reconstructed and enlarged the house and established the family home there.

In later years large tracts of land were added to the property, which has been known for many years as "Vine Hill Farm." A creamery was built on the east end of the farm on South Quaker Lane, near the former site of the Talcott Woolen Mill. A herd of high-grade cows was secured and a large milk and cream route in Hartford and vicinity was developed. Vine Hill Farm became widely known and famous as one of the most prominent dairying enterprises in this section.

The general management of Vine Hill Farm was in the hands of Mr. Beach's youngest son, Charles Edward Beach. In addition to his duties and services in that capacity, Mr. Beach has rendered efficient service as a citizen and official of the Town of West Hartford as a professional Civil Engineer.

For a number of years he had charge of all surveying and engineer work required by the town in the development of the community. He has been for several official terms a member of the Board of Selectmen. During the World War he was President of the local War Bureau, giving liberally of his time, service, and money.

As the candidate of the Democratic party he very nearly secured election as a delegate to represent West Hartford in the Connecticut Constitutional Convention held in Hartford in 1901. He was, as the candidate of the Democratic party, elected Repre-

sentative to The General Assembly at a later date, an honor which is enhanced in view of the fact that the majority of legal voters in the town were members of the Republican Party.

Mr. Beach is one of West Hartford's highly esteemed citizens.

A New Community Founded by West Hartford People. In 1833 Albigence Scarborough, a prominent citizen of West Hartford, rode on horseback to the far-off state of Illinois, for the purpose of prospecting with reference to the establishment of a new settlement there.

He was well pleased with the country, and in the autumn of 1834 he, with his family, made the journey to Illinois in a wagon, and spent the following winter in the town of Quincy. He purchased a large tract of land, and in the spring of 1835 proceeded to lay it out in lots for a village, which he named Payson in honor of Rev. Edward Payson, a clergyman of Portland, Maine, whom he greatly admired.

Soon after, quite a number of people from West Hartford journeyed to Illinois and became residents of this new community. Moses Spencer, whose farm in West Hartford was on the Farmington Turnpike where Westland Avenue and LeMay Street are now, went to Payson with his wife and nine children, in 1839. A descendant of his is now one of the largest landowners in the State of Illinois. Charles Whitman, Cyrus and Wells Butler, and Martin Seymour with a family of nine children also went to Payson from West Hartford. Martin Seymour's home in West Hartford was at one time on Vanderbilt Hill now West Hill. At a later period just prior to his removal to Payson he owned a farm of one hundred acres which is now the property of the American School on North Main Street.

Payson was laid out after the pattern of many New England Villages, with a "commons" in the center. One-half of this has since been set to maples, making a handsome park. Many of the first houses, some of which are still standing, were of the standard Colonial style.

The Congregational parsonage was built by Albigence Scarborough in 1845. Much of the work on it was done by the Mormons after they were driven out of Nauvoo and before they went to Salt Lake City. The Congregational church, built in 1865, was the third one of that denomination. The first, built in 1839, burned to the ground before it was dedicated. A small one was then erected and that was used until the present church was built.

Payson was one of the foremost communities in the West in educational advantages. Before the public school system was organized, good private schools were carried on, to which students came from the surrounding country. When the first sale of lots

in the village was made twenty per cent of the purchase price and the choicest block, were donated to educational purposes. Payson now has one of the finest school buildings in the West. This was given by H. M. Seymour in honor of his only son, who was accidentally killed in a ball game on the school ground. Mr. Seymour is a descendant of Martin Seymour.

After many years and many changes, Payson still retains many of the characteristics of Old New England.

West Hartford Forty-niners. In 1849 when gold was discovered in California, and many Eastern men rushed to the Pacific Coast in quest of a fortune, West Hartford had two representatives in the company. One was Thomas Alden, son of Zephaniah Alden, whose home was on Albany Turnpike, and who owned the farm on which St. Mary's Home for the Aged is now located. Thomas Alden did not return to West Hartford, but settled in the Middle West. His sister, Elizabeth Alden, married Mr. E. W. Andrews, and lived in New Britain. Their son, Alden Andrews, is now a resident of that city.

The other young man was Seth W. Bishop, son of Benjamin Bishop, whose home was on West Hartford Main Street, at the southeast corner of that street and the road that was then called Bishop Road. He went to New Britain and learned the machinist trade, and in 1849 went to California, making the journey by ship around Cape Horn. It required six months to reach California. He was successful in the accomplishment of his object and returned to Hartford in 1857. For a number of years he was interested in the tobacco business. In 1866 he was admitted to partnership in the firm of Pratt & Whitney Company of Hartford, and was connected with that firm until his death in 1894.

The late Frederick L. Bishop of West Hartford was his son.

WEST HARTFORD REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CONNECTICUT FROM 1855 TO THE PRESENT TIME

The following is a list of those citizens of West Hartford who have had the honor of representing the town in the General Assembly from 1855 until the present time, 1929.

1855 Edward Stanley
1856 William Sedgwick
1857 Benjamin Belden
1858 Josiah Raymond
1859 Thomas Brace
1860 Solomon S. Flagg
1861 Leonard Buckland
1862 Lyman Hotchkiss
1863 B. Sterling Bishop
1864 Charles Boswell
1865 Ralph G. Wells
1866 Charles Boswell
1867 William Storer
1868 Charles Boswell
1869 John M. G. Brace
1870 Charles Boswell
1871 Frederick A. Seymour
1872 Rev. Myron N. Morris
1873 William B. Ely
1874 B. Sterling Bishop
1875 Rev. Myron N. Morris
1876 Philip G. Parsons
1877 Samuel Whitman
1878 William H. Hall
1879 Charles Ramsay
1880 John E. Millard
1881 E. Buel Root
1882 E. Buel Root
1883 Timothy Sedgwick
1884 B. Sterling Bishop
1885 Edward L. Mix
1886 Leonard Buckland
1887 Hiram Hurlburt

After the plan of holding biennial sessions was adopted, the following named citizens served as representatives:

1889 Thomas O. Enders
1891 Thomas O. Enders
1893 Frederick C. Rockwell
1895 Adolph C. Sternberg
1897 William H. Mansfield
1899 John O. Enders
1901 Charles C. Cook
1903 G. F. Scarborough
1905 Charles A. Griswold
1907 C. Edward Beach
1909 William S. Griswold
1911 Albert V. A. Sherman
1913 Lucius C. Ryce
1915 Richard H. Deming
1917 Carlyle C. Thomson
1919 Oliver R. Beckwith

West Hartford's population had increased to such an extent at this time that the town was entitled thenceforth to two representatives in each session of The General Assembly.

1921 Thomas W. Russell
Huntington P. Meech
1923 Huntington P. Meech
J. Verner Anderson
1925 Henry A. Wolcott
John W. Huling
1927 Henry A. Wolcott
John W. Huling
1929 Frank J. Sparks
Clarence W. Seymour

Note — Following their terms of service as representatives in the General Assembly Charles C. Cook and Huntington P. Meech were elected to the General Assembly as Senators repre-

senting the Fifth Senatorial District of the State, of which West Hartford is a part.

All of the above named representatives elected to the General Assembly by the citizens of West Hartford were members of the Republican party with the exception of William Sedgwick, representative in 1856, and C. Edward Beach in 1907, who were Democrats.

WEST HARTFORD MEMBERS OF COMPANY D TWENTY-SECOND REGIMENT CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEERS

The following named persons, residents of West Hartford, enlisted in Company D of the Twenty-Second Regiment Connecticut Volunteers, E. Buel Root, Captain.

CAPT. E. BUEL ROOT

Lester Whiton, First Lieutenant; George W. Seymour, Fourth Sergeant; Charles Fuller, Second Corporal; Edwin B.

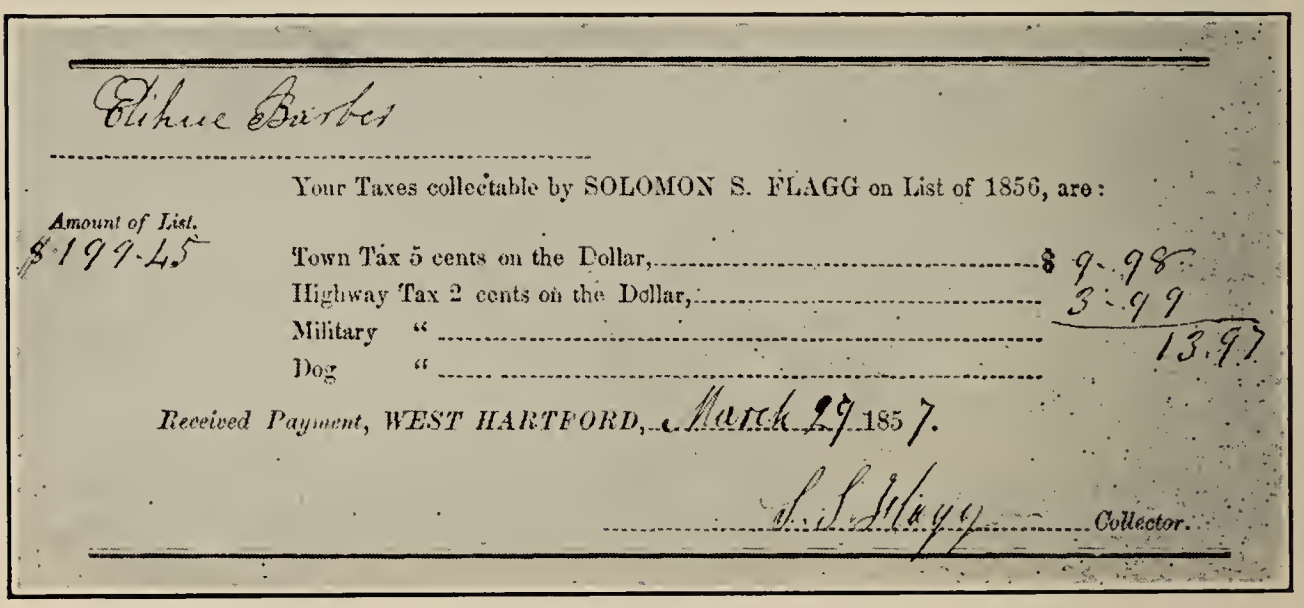
Griswold, Fifth Corporal; Henry F. King, Musician; Frank G. Butler, Frederick J. Butler, Edward H. Cadwell, Charles S. Cadwell, Clinton B. Elmer, Charles H. Flagg, Edward A. Flagg, Roger N. Francis, Amos Hurlburt, Frederick A. Mitchell, Hugh Gage Montgomery, Henry T. Nearing, William H. Raynesford, Porter Whiton.

VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR AS THEY APPEARED ON GOODMAN PARK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD WAR SOLDIERS

Roger N. Francis and Frederick A. Mitchell are the only persons whose names appear on this list who are now living. Mr. Francis is living in Springfield, Mass., and Mr. Mitchell is living with his daughters at No. 1047 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. He has been deeply interested in the activities and service of the Memorial Day Association of the town serving for several years as its leader — honored and beloved by all the people.

COMPARISON OF TAXABLE PROPERTIES

Miss F. Louise Griswold has in her possession the tax bill of her maternal grandfather, Elihu Barber, for the year 1856. She has kindly permitted a facsimile copy to be made for this history. Elihu Barber was the owner of a large farm in the northern part of the town. His residence was the first house on the south side of Flagg Road west of West Hartford Main Street. It is still standing but changed from its original form and condition. Mr. Barber was generally considered to be one of the wealthy farmers of West Hartford. His list of taxable property for the year 1856 upon which the tax bill of that year was based as follows: three houses, $2,400; 100 acres of land, $2,260; horses $140; neat cattle, $165; carriages, $30; timepieces, $20; money interests, $1,300. Total $6,315.



Elihue Barber

Your Taxes collectable by SOLOMON S. FLAGG on List of 1856, are:

Amount of List. $199.45

Town Tax 5 cents on the Dollar,	$ 9.98
Highway Tax 2 cents on the Dollar,	3.99
Military "	
Dog "	
	13.97

Received Payment, WEST HARTFORD, March 27 1857.

S. S. Flagg Collector.

TAX BILL OF ELIHU BARBER

The following contrast of property subject to taxation in West Hartford in 1854, when it first became a separate town, with the last completed list for the year 1928 is both interesting and significant as to the different kinds of property enumerated as well as to the valuation of property of similar character:

PROPERTY	Amount in 1854	Amount in 1929	Value in 1854	Value in 1929
Lands	12,495¼ acres	8,027.55 acres	$453,104	$2,920,821
House Lots		10,477		16,316,239
Houses	220	4,572	177,120	38,112,240
Barns, Sheds, Garages		3,767		1,855,785
Stores	1		600	
Buildings used for Business		123		1,374,996
Mills and Factories		21	9,345	918,931
Horses		225	11,155	16,375
Cattle		681	25,601	30,750
Sheep, Swine, Goats			918	2,285
Carriages			2,755	4,150
Automobiles		5,442		2,490,295
Time Pieces			730	
Musical Instruments and Libraries			715	
Jewelry, etc.				45,712
Furniture, Musical Instruments				296,870
Bridge, Turnpike, Plank Road and Ferry Stock			26	
Bank Stock			18,595	
Insurance Stock			2,650	
Railroad,City and Corporation Bonds			5,800	
Amount Employed in Merchandising and Trade			300	
Investments in Mechanical and Manuf. Operations			7,000	
Money at Interest			80,801	
Money on Hand			2,760	
Taxable Property not Specifically Mentioned			2,800	
Goods on Hand				344,188
Cable, Poles etc.				342,463
			$802,775	$65,072,100

POPULATION

From the Connecticut State Register for 1854, when West Hartford first became a separate town, it appears that the population at that time was 1200. The returns of the United States Census Bureau show that the increase in population was slow during the years that followed its incorporation as a town. In 1860 the population was 1296; in 1880, twenty years later, it had increased to 1828. In 1900 it was 3,186, and in 1920 it was 8,854. It is estimated by the Registrars of Voters of West Hartford, who have given much careful painstaking attention to the matter in connection with their canvass for the making of voters, that the population has now reached, in 1929, a total of fully 23,819, and it is still rapidly increasing.

TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH

The change of West Hartford from an agricultural community to a residential suburb of Hartford really began about fifty years ago when wealthy citizens of Hartford bought property and established their homes in the eastern part of the town along the lines of Farmington Avenue, Prospect Avenue, Fern Street, and Highland Street. Then came the introduction of such modern improvements and conveniences as sewers, sidewalks, street lights, mail deliveries and the collection of ashes and garbage. This movement continued, and that section, often spoken of as the "East Side," became a very attractive, beautiful part of the town.

A REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

The later development westward, through the central part of the town, which has made such rapid progress, has been largely brought about through the agency of those whose business consists in buying tracts of land, laying them out in streets and building lots, and selling the lots. The prevalent uniformity in the size of the lots and in the general character and appearance of the houses has not tended to the promotion of the attractiveness of the community as a whole. It is true, however, that there are some streets in this section that present a more attractive appearance.

A FINE RESIDENTIAL STREET

NORTH MAIN STREET
LOOKING NORTH FROM A POINT NEAR THE OLD CENTER SCHOOL

NEW BRITAIN AVENUE, ORIGINALLY CALLED THE SOUTH ROAD TO FARMINGTON, LOOKING WEST FROM THE SOUTH END OF SOUTH QUAKER LANE. A SECTION OF CURBING WHICH ENCLOSES THE SPACE WHERE THE BURGOYNE ELMS WERE PLANTED IN 1777 APPEARS IN THE FOREGROUND.

At the present time the highlands in the western part of the town along the eastern slope of Talcott Mountain are being purchased in large tracts, and a movement has been inaugurated for the laying out of large and beautiful residential estates which will add greatly to the attractiveness of the town. Apparently a similar movement has been planned for the northern part of the town, and in due time fine residences with spacious and attractive grounds will characterize that section.

These developments have led to a large and rapid increase in the population of the community, and fortunately a large proportion of the new residents are disposed to assume the duties of real and active citizenship, so that the statement often repeated in former years that West Hartford is a bedroom of Hartford is now seldom heard.

In January, 1930, the Park, Town Plan, and Cemetery Commission of West Hartford, consisting of L. I. Corliss, Chairman, C. A. Griswold, H. J. Marks, H. D. Carey, and F. H. Smith, presented a very fine comprehensive plan for the development of a large tract of land bounded by West Hartford Main

Street on the east, Albany Avenue on the north, Mountain Road on the west and Fern Street on the south. This tract contains 900 acres and is approximately one mile wide and a mile and a half long.

The plan, as laid out, shows the main roadways — one, the extension of Asylum Avenue, one hundred feet wide, across the property swinging to the north, and the other, a boulevard one hundred foot wide, starting on Fern Street east, where Trout Brook crosses Fern, and extending along the east side of it in a northerly direction, and finally swinging to the west. The principal features of this lay-out are curved roads, and, on either side of the Trout Brook section an area set apart for a park.

ALBANY AVENUE
LOOKING EAST FROM A POINT EAST OF THE CORNER OF
ALBANY AVENUE AND MOUNTAIN ROAD

The general plan was laid down on an engineering basis and kept in mind future requirements for water and sewerage. The plan, when finally worked out, will preserve the natural scenic beauties of the region and enable the people who care to live there to avail themselves of large individual lots fronting on wide roads. Much of the natural beauty ot the area is preserved for them. This lay-out will harmonize with the developments planned on the west of Mountain Road and can easily be extended beyond Albany Avenue, west of North Main Street,

THE BOULEVARD, LOOKING EAST FROM SOUTH MAIN STREET.

to the town line. It can also be extended south of Fern Street and west of Fairview cemetery property to Mountain Road and Farmington Avenue.

The Commission believed that this plan in anticipation of the growth of the town will be for the highest interests of the community as a whole and will enable present property owners to dispose of their land to greatest advantage and give assurance to those who purchase property within this area of a well planned and attractive development of the entire tract. The recommendations of the Commission have been approved by the Town Council and the development recommended by the commission is assured.